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THE



TIMES

SATURDAY AUGUST 20 1988

(30p)

# Civil Service faces big shift from London

## Low-cost attraction of regional offices

By David Walker, Public Administration Correspondent

Up to 90 per cent of the 100,000 London-based Civil Servants will be dispersed to the regions, if drastic relocation plans now circulating in the Treasury and Whitehall departments are enforced by the Government.

A blueprint for the future has been provided by the Department of Employment, which is to transfer the bulk of its London administrators to offices in the North of England.

It brings in prospect a new, slimmer Whitehall in which only a core of Civil Servants providing policy advice to ministers remain in central London. All executive and general administrative work would be relocated to lower-cost provincial cities, and to Scotland and Wales, where recruitment should be easier than in the capital.

The move, instigated by Mr Norman Fowler, the Secretary

of State for Employment, and announced to staff in the department yesterday by Mr Geoffrey Holland, the Permanent Secretary, jumps the gun on the Treasury, which has been reviewing relocation policy in the light of rising London costs.

The last big push to get Civil Servants out of London began in the early 1970s; during the 1980s only about 5,500 have

Britain has just over 600,000 Civil Servants, of whom 580,000 are white-collar workers. Dispersal schemes were first drawn up in the early years of Second World War, the last being in 1973 after a report by Sir Henry Hardman. In 1973, there were 143,000 Civil Servants in London. There are now 116,000.

moved out of London to offices in Scotland and the North-west.

The pioneering move by the Department of Employment, which will leave only 10 per cent of its administrators at Caxton House in Westminster, increases pressure on other departments which are waiting to hear details of the Treasury's thinking. They are already under a general order to cut their running expenses and rental payments.

Mr Peter Brooke, the Paymaster General, announced earlier this year that the Treasury was preparing a new policy on dispersal based on "the potential benefits to the Civil Service and to the localities of doing work in areas where labour supply, conditions and costs were favourable".

If mammoth departments such as health and social security, and the Ministry of Defence, move out, then Whitehall could, within a few years, shrink to some 10,000 Civil Servants, with the rest scattered through the regions. Concerted plans for dispersal were put into effect during the 1960s and 1970s but there are still around 116,000 non-industrial Civil Servants in the capital representing about a fifth of the total. In 1972 there were

143,000 Civil Servants in London, about one quarter.

Mrs Thatcher has so far resisted pressure from Mr Michael Heseltine and other backbench Conservative MPs to use dispersal of the Civil Service as a means of increasing employment in the North and regenerating inner city areas, but now Mr Fowler seems keen to realize some of the political benefits from bringing new jobs to such depressed areas as South Yorkshire.

The Government is likely to face heated opposition to the move from Civil Service unions. Officials will be closely monitoring the response to the Department of Employment's plan, which appeared on Civil Servants' desks in the department yesterday.

Most of the department's executive Civil Servants are already employed out of London in Jobcentres and benefit offices, but it still has some 2,000 administrative staff in offices in central London. It has now decided to relocate the majority of these.

A total of 1,300 posts are, within two years, to be resited in Sheffield, South Yorkshire, and Runcorn, Cheshire, and possibly one as yet unnamed inner-city location. A rump of around 500 posts, mostly at senior grades, will be left in London.

Office space in Runcorn fetches between £30 and £40 per square metre a year compared with costs of up to £190 per square metre in central London. The Department of Energy was recently criticized in sharp terms by a House of Commons committee for proceeding with the expensive reconstruction of an office block in Westminster instead of considering cheaper options.

Under the plan, all the executive staff of the department together with computer specialists, personnel officers and other divisions, will move out to cheaper sites. Many are likely to go to existing Department of Employment offices in Sheffield, where the Training Commission, formerly the Manpower Services Commission, is based.

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# Lift-off from New Orleans as poll boosts Bush



Mr George Bush, the Republican presidential candidate, throwing his granddaughter Nancy in the air at the end of the party convention in New Orleans.

## Republicans weather storm over Quayle

From Michael Binyon, New Orleans

Vice-President George Bush and Senator Dan Quayle yesterday flew to Huntington, Indiana, the vice-presidential candidate's home town, as the Bush campaign appeared to have weathered the crisis over Mr Quayle's entry into the National Guard instead of service in Vietnam.

A national poll published yesterday showed that the issue does not appear to have inflicted any lasting damage.

More than 70 per cent said Mr Quayle should not withdraw from the ticket if he served in the National Guard to avoid going to Vietnam. Some 34 per cent said Mr Bush should pick someone else if Mr Quayle used family influence to get into the Guard. But 72 per cent of the 842 people polled by the CNN network and USA Today said Mr Bush's selection of Mr Quayle had no bearing on how they would vote.

Republican campaign managers worked hard throughout Thursday and yesterday to clear up questions about Mr Quayle's military service and limit the damage from his admission that strings were pulled by an employee of the family firm to get him into the Indiana National Guard.

Mr Bush, battered by a warm reception to his well-

delivered acceptance speech at the Republican convention here, was also cheered by a poll that shows he has made all the distance he lagged behind Governor Michael Dukakis, and now leads the Democratic candidate by 45 to 44 points.

But Democrats were yesterday preparing to take full advantage of the Quayle controversy. Mr Dukakis said: "I can only speak for myself. I served my country. I did so

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proudly. It was an important issue in my life." Democratic officials said that Mr Quayle's "hypocrisy" of advocating a strong defence policy while avoiding combat duty himself would offend many working-class "Reagan Democrats" who had not been able to get out of going to Vietnam.

Mr Quayle attempted somewhat lamely yesterday to make light of the row by telling a Republican breakfast meeting that, in future, he would introduce himself by standing stiffly to attention, saluting, giving his rank and number, and saying he had

served proudly for six years in the National Guard.

Mr Bush, still exuding the confidence and command that marked his delivery of his acceptance speech on Thursday, told top party officials that their task now was to "project the kind of future that we want, which is a strong America, and a world at peace, not being afraid to take action from time to time but having enough experience and knowledge to enhance the peace".

He said that foreign affairs would make up 50 per cent of the party's message, and the other half would be domestic prosperity.

He said that Mr Quayle would help in this with his experience in drafting a job training Act.

In his acceptance speech, Mr Bush gave a pledge to "keep America moving forward, always forward" and declared that "what it all comes down to, after all the shouting and the cheers, is the man at the desk. And who should sit at that desk? My friends, I am that man."

He gladly closed himself in the accomplishments of the Reagan Administration - reduced inflation and interest rates, less unemployment, and the creation of 17 million new jobs in five years.

## Lester Piggott's wife badly hurt after horse fall

By Andrew Moger

The wife of Lester Piggott, the former top jockey, was seriously ill last night after falling from a horse during an early morning exercise on Newmarket gallops.

Mrs Susan Piggott, aged 47, who took over the running of her husband's racehorse training business earlier this year after his imprisonment for tax fraud, was being treated by intensive care staff at nearby Addenbrooke's Hospital in Cambridge.

She suffered ten broken ribs, a broken collar bone and concussion. Her condition later was said to have sta-

bilized and she was not thought to be in any danger. Her husband was told of the accident but last night there were no plans for him to travel to Addenbrooke's although he had applied to make a compassionate visit if her condition deteriorated.

Mr Jeremy Richardson, his solicitor, said Piggott was very distressed to hear of her fall which occurred on the Newmarket Heath gallops near their Eve Lodge stables, 12 miles away from his cell at Highpoint open jail at Stradishall, Suffolk.

Piggott, aged 52, eleven times champion jockey, has so far served 10 months of his three-year sentence.

Mrs Piggott, an accomplished horse woman and a well-respected figure in horse racing as a bloodstock agent, was granted a full training licence in January after the jailing of her husband three months earlier.

One of few women trainers in flat racing, she fell on her usual morning ride shortly after 9 am.

Although thousands of racehorses are exercised on the

Mrs Piggott: Seriously ill in Addenbrooke's Hospital.

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## Pakistani Army plot theory grows

# Security fears for funeral

From Nicholas Beeston in Islamabad and Zahid Hussain in Karachi

The growing belief that President Zia's death in a plane crash may have been part of a plot by disgruntled Pakistani military officers has increased concern for the security of foreign dignitaries, including the Foreign Secretary, Sir Geoffrey Howe, when they attend the Pakistani leader's funeral today in Islamabad.

While no concrete evidence has emerged to identify the suspected saboteurs of the aircraft, foreign and Pakistani sources are coming to the conclusion that the attack could not have been orchestrated without the consent or support of elements in the armed forces.

Senior diplomats and Pakistani officials held talks in Islamabad yesterday over the security risk to the foreign leaders attending today's funeral, who also include Mr George Shultz, the US Secretary of State, and a number

of world leaders and foreign ministers.

"The worry is that Zia's death was either a coup in itself or part of a coup which is not over yet," said one diplomat.

It is not clear what President Zia's assassins hoped to achieve by killing him. Elections which he promised would be held on November

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16 are still going ahead and no figure has emerged from the military who could be identified as his successor.

The new army chief of staff, General Mirza Aslam Beg, who was flying in an accompanying aircraft at the time of the crash, is considered a career soldier with little political ambition.

However, observers of Pakistan's armed forces, the best organized and most powerful

institution in the country, have noted growing dissatisfaction among junior and middle-ranking officers up to the rank of colonel over their treatment by General Zia in the past two years.

In particular they cited discontent among the soldiers for the preferential treatment given to senior officers, who are rarely punished for incompetence or corruption and who stifle chances for promotion.

Observers admit, however, that it is difficult to get an accurate picture of the highly secretive working of the Pakistani military hierarchy and the intelligence service to assess the extent of the discontent.

But the speculation that some officers may have been behind the assassination was enough to prompt one diplomat to warn that "foreign dignitaries could get caught in

## Fowler plea on pay as inflation rises

By Richard Thomson and Richard Ford

The Government's economic problems will multiply this month as Britain's inflation rate shoots above 5 per cent for the first time in more than two-and-a-half years.

Inflation figures released yesterday showed that prices in July rose by 0.1 per cent, giving an annual rate of 4.3 per cent.

But financial markets are bracing themselves for a sharp rise in August to about 5.5 per cent because of this month's mortgage rate increases. Inflation has not been that high since November 1985.

The Government is now worried that accelerating price rises will push up wage demands, which will in turn fuel further price rises.

Mr Norman Fowler, the Secretary of State for Employment, urged restraint in pay settlements. He said pay bargainers should consider factors other than the position of prices when drawing up and

negotiating wage settlements.

"When taxes are taken into account as well, then today's figures show that gross earnings need only to have risen by 3.7 per cent over the last year to maintain purchasing power," Mr Fowler said.

He blamed the rise in the annual rate of inflation on higher prices for cars and

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motor insurance, increases in food costs and rises in electricity and gas charges.

City economists are predicting that the combination of rising inflation and high demand will lead to a further increase in bank base rates next month to 11.5 per cent, reaching 12 per cent by the end of the year.

The building societies lent a record £5.4 billion in July, compared with the previous month's record of £4.9 billion.

## Midsummer warning of antifreeze rationing

By Daniel Ward  
Motor Industry Correspondent

As Britain's drivers wait for summer to start they are likely to be chilled further by a warning that a world shortage of antifreeze is likely to affect Britain this winter and a cold snap may force shops to bring in rationing to protect depleted stocks.

Experts are talking of a 25 per cent shortfall in antifreeze supplies. Prices may be double those of last year's mild winter.

The crisis has been caused by a worldwide shortage of top quality ethylene glycol. Mr Philip O'Dwyer, marketing manager for Lucas Bluecol, the leading British antifreeze brand, yesterday forecast a 40 per cent shortfall in Europe. In Britain "there

will be a shortage of 10 million litres." British motorists normally use 40 million litres of antifreeze a year.

Mr O'Dwyer said: "If we have a severe winter lots of motorists will be stranded so our recommendation is for motorists to buy their antifreeze early." Last year's mild winter - when sales were halved - has made motorists slow to top up or change antifreeze. Most wait for the cold snap.

Only three plants in the world produce ethylene glycol. One in Louisiana blew up and the other two in Belgium and Germany were closed because they were too dangerous. One expert said: "The US used to be the main exporter - now it is buying it all up."

"The only alternative is methanol antifreeze, but it wrecks engines."

According to Lucas the raw material cost of antifreeze has trebled this year and prices will be up to 35 per cent higher. However, Spic Group, a leading wholesale distributor to 6,000 motor accessory shops, said yesterday prices could double to about £3 for a one-litre can.

A Buckinghamshire garage proprietor, Mr Ian Bridges, said: "Already the price for a barrel was £130, then in April it rocketed to £205, now you can't get any at all. Already Lucas is refusing to sell antifreeze to new customers and limiting existing clients to the same volume purchased in the winter of 1987."

Industry experts believe the severe

supply problems could ease at the end of the year if damaged ethylene glycol plants start working again on time.

However, the shortage of such a crucial material creates serious problems. As transport companies and bus operators prepare their vehicles for the winter and change antifreeze, they have found it difficult to buy enough supplies.

The problem could become acute for garages, particularly when antifreeze has to be added to an engine to keep it to the level recommended by the manufacturer.

Although shops have some stocks unsold from last winter they are only expected to last a few days in a sudden cold snap brings a rush of buyers.

## Retaking A-levels?

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## NEWS ROUNDUP

## 20 pupils hurt in coach accident

Twenty children were taken to hospital yesterday after their coach was involved in a crash with a lorry during a school outing. A girl and a relative of another child were detained in hospital with serious injuries after firemen cut them free from the wreckage.

The crash happened in Runcorn, Cheshire, at a roundabout on the A533 Runcorn Expressway, shortly after the 53-seat coach had set off from Liverpool with children from Millwood Primary School in the city's Speke area. Most of the pupils, aged eight to 10, were treated for minor injuries and shock. The two seriously injured were described as comfortable at Warrington General Hospital.

● Traffic on the M4 in Berkshire was brought to a standstill yesterday after a five-vehicle accident blocked one of the carriageways. The crash, between junctions 6 and 7 near Slough, happened after a lorry jackknifed across the road.

## Brent cuts warning

The social services cuts proposed by Brent council will lead to unused hospital beds, longer waiting lists and a complete breakdown of community care, the local health authority said yesterday. Dr Martin McNicol, vice-chairman of Parkside health authority, has written to Mr Dorman Long, the leader of Brent council, urging the council to reconsider the planned £3 million cut to the social services budget. "The health authority is in no position to take on additional responsibilities or costs and we will simply not be able to plug gaps adequately," Dr McNicol said.

## Postal talks to go on

Leaders of the postal workers union and senior Post Office negotiators had two separate meetings yesterday in an attempt to avert industrial action which would seriously disrupt mail services. The dispute is over the payment of bonuses to new workers at fifty offices in London and the South-east to assist recruitment. The Union of Communication Workers wants the bonuses to be paid to all new recruits, which would cost some £3 million a year. More talks were expected over the weekend.

## P&amp;O resumes service

P&O has reopened its ferry service between Dover and Boulogne for the first time since January, in the wake of the strike by the National Union of Seamen. The Pride of Canterbury sailed on the first of three daily crossings to the French resort yesterday morning. The company said yesterday that the decision to re-start the Boulogne service was due to "market forces".

## Killer 'may be child'

The person who raped and stabbed to death a deaf woman may have been a schoolboy, police said yesterday. Bloody footmarks found in the flat of Suzanne Greenhill, aged 20, were so small that police believe the murderer may have been as young as 14. The information came to light after detectives called in Professor Mike Day, a forensic scientist of St Thomas's Hospital, London, to study them. Miss Greenhill was murdered seven weeks ago in her flat in Newport, Gwent, where she lived alone. Detectives have interviewed more than 2,000 people in their hunt.

## Visionary advice

Visions and revelations are experiences that people might best be advised to keep to themselves, a Roman Catholic bishop declared yesterday. The Bishop of Ferns, the Most Rev Brendan Comiskey, gave his advice after two sisters from Cork claimed they had seen an apparition of the Virgin Mary at a grotto in Co. Wexford. They said the Virgin Mary had "promised" to appear next Sunday at Grantstown. Bishop Comiskey said there was a place in church for pilgrimages but people should not flock to every vision.

## Cook doubts Labour's election chances

By Richard Ford  
Political Correspondent

A senior member of the Shadow Cabinet yesterday cast doubt on the Labour Party's ability to win an overall majority at the next general election.

Mr Robin Cook, MP for Livingston and campaign manager for Mr Neil Kinnock in the leadership contest, said it would be a bold claim to say that Labour could leap in one bound from its present position to a clear majority in the Commons. "But we could achieve a hung parliament. All the opinion polls are consistent with that," he added.

Throughout the day, Labour Party officials sought to limit the damage caused by his comments only three days after the publication

of an opinion poll showed that Mr Kinnock's personal standing was at its lowest level since the general election.

The embarrassment caused by Mr Cook's gloomy comments on Labour's prospects was heightened by his position as campaign manager to Mr Kinnock and Mr Roy Hattersley in the current leadership struggle.

It was also suspected that he was reflecting in public a private view shared by many of his colleagues in the Shadow Cabinet.

His remarks were given added weight because he is recognized on both sides of the House as a formidable parliamentary operator whose performance in the House of Commons has made him one of Labour's stars in the last session.

Last night Mr Cook elaborated on

his views. Mrs Thatcher could and would be beaten and a majority Government was possible. But he added: "It is a very difficult task, a big task. The message I intended to get across was that all the recent opinion polls, far from showing Mrs Thatcher would win, in fact show she would be beaten and replaced by a hung parliament in which Labour would form the Government."

Mr Cook said there was nothing politically novel if the Labour Party had to settle for a partial victory and then go for an outright win.

"It happened in 1974. I am not saying that that is the strategy or what I want."

"What I am saying is that we should not get too depressed about the scale of the task."

The shadow spokesman on health and social security predicted that

any minority Labour administration would have little difficulty in drafting a programme of legislation to keep Parliament busy all day and all night for two years before it would seek an overall majority.

"Plainly any future minority government has to have regard to what programme it could get through Parliament. That is not so difficult."

"It is Mrs Thatcher who is out of step on a whole range of issues, not the rest of the world. You could quite happily put together a two-year programme on issues like the poll tax, Scottish devolution and reform of the social security system. It is not what I aspire to but it could be done," Mr Cook said.

Labour Party officials said Mr Cook's comments were his personal opinions and were not shared by the vast majority of the party. A party

spokesman added: "Robin, like everyone else in the Labour Party, will be fighting all out to win an outright majority."

But Mr Cook's gloomy prognosis will be seized on by the Government which will highlight the uncertainty of minority administrations dependent on support from parties as diverse as Plaid Cymru and the Rev Ian Paisley's Democratic Unionists.

At the same time as Mr Cook made his predictions, a squabble developed over the party's attitude towards payment of the poll tax in Scotland with allegations that the Shadow Cabinet had gagged him over his advocacy of non-payment of the community charge.

Mr Cook refused to confirm or deny that the Shadow Cabinet had forbidden him to further comment on supporting non-payment.

## Soldiers pay tribute to victim of IRA

Scores of ex-servicemen and serving soldiers attended the funeral yesterday of Regimental Sergeant Major Michael Heakin, who was shot by IRA men in Belgium a week ago.

About 1,000 mourners gathered at the graveside as RSM Heakin, a soldier for 23 years, was buried, with full military honours, in a hillside cemetery at Ebbw Vale, Gwent, in South Wales. A dozen rifle-men from the Royal Regiment of Wales fired volleys of shots in tribute to their comrade.

Earlier, the funeral service was held at the parish church of St Edward, in the dead soldier's home town of Knighton, Powys.

The Rev Leo Heakin, a cousin of RSM Heakin, said in his prayers "that the forces of evil and terrorism will never, ever, have the last word in our world and that peace and justice will prevail".

RSM Heakin, of 1st Battalion, the Royal Regiment of Wales, a keen athlete and rugby player, was shot dead in Ostend at the wheel of his car, as he waited at traffic lights on his way to catch a ferry home.

His coffin was escorted from Knighton by road to Ebbw Vale, where he was buried, in accordance with the wishes of his widow, Irene, in the same cemetery as her parents.

The Rev Anthony Jefferies, who married the couple 13 years ago, led prayers before a bugler sounded the Last Post.

His coffin was borne into the church on the shoulders of six regimental friends, a single



Servicemen bearing RSM Michael Heakin's coffin into St Edward's Church, Knighton, Powys, yesterday.

red rose from his widow placed alongside his uniform, cap and ceremonial sword.

In an address, his commanding officer Lieutenant Colonel Christopher Elliott, who had known RSM Heakin for 20 years, said he was "a very kind and dear friend, who had a bright future in the Army". "We will all miss him very greatly indeed," he added.

Mourners included another

of the regiment's IRA victims, ex-private Andrew Bull, aged 25, blinded by a bomb five years ago, while on patrol in West Belfast.

Outside the church, Mr Bull, now a council telephoneist, described the IRA as "the lowest form of life going". "To take life as they have is unforgivable," he said.

In the wake of RSM Heakin's murder, Mr Archie Hamilton, Minister of State

for the Armed Forces, is reviewing urgently the use of distinctive number plates for British servicemen travelling in private cars in West Germany.

RSM Heakin's family and colleagues said they thought the soldier, who was in civilian clothes and unarmed, was an easy target because of his number plates.

Thousands of mourners lined the streets of Belfast

yesterday to pay tribute to Mr Fred O'Leary, a greengrocer who was killed by two gunmen in his shop last week.

Mr O'Leary, aged 44, was shot in the head at point-blank range on Wednesday by members of the IRA, which claimed he was an Ulster Volunteer Force member and responsible for killing nationalists.

The funeral procession passed briefly outside his shop in the Shankill Road.

## Nursing dispute may widen

By Jill Sherman  
Social Services Correspondent

The dispute over the grading of ward sisters under the nurses' new pay deal seems certain to extend to auxiliaries and enrolled nurses.

Union leaders want the Government to clarify its definition of "supervision", which they claim is resulting in many nursing auxiliaries being downgraded.

Health authorities were told in May to grade all unqualified nursing staff on the bottom Scale A, starting at £4,375, unless they regularly work without supervision, or head a team of staff on Scale A.

If the auxiliary works without being supervised for all or most of a shift he or she will get the higher Scale B, starting at £5,850.

"We want to know whether supervision means being at the end of a telephone or whether someone has to be on the ward," the National Union of Public Employees said yesterday.

Mr Trevor Clay, general secretary of the Royal College of Nursing, said many managers were putting less qualified staff on the lowest grades, even where they had extra skills.

Meanwhile, the Confederation of Health Service Employees at Friern Hospital, north London, voted to ballot their members on a 24-hour strike for next Thursday.

## Joint win for chess champions

By Raymond Keene  
Chess Correspondent

World chess champion Gary Kasparov and former champion, Anatoly Karpov, have tied for first prize in the strongest ever Soviet Chess Championship. The championship finished yesterday in the International Hotel, Moscow.

Leading scores were: Kasparov and Karpov 11 and a half points out of 17; Selov and Yusupov 10 points. Both Kasparov and Karpov were unbeaten and their sharing of the championship title so far ahead of the rest of the field confirms that these two are in a class of their own.

There was no play yesterday in the Pilkington Glass World Chess Quarter-Final at London's Barbican Centre. The third game will be played today. Here are the moves of Game 2 with Nigel Short playing White:

1 e4 e5 2 Nf3 Nc6 3 Bc4 Bc5 4 Ng5 d5 5 Nxd5 Nxd5 6 Nc3 Nf6 7 Bb5 Nc6 8 Qh5 g6 9 Nxe6 fxe6 10 Bc4 g5 11 Nf3 h4 12 Ng5 h3 13 Bb5 Nc6 14 Qd2 Bg7 15 Rf1 Qd6 16 Bg3 Qc6 17 Bf2 Qd6 18 Bg3 Qc6 19 Bf2 Qd6 20 Bg3 Qc6 21 Bf2 Qd6 22 Bg3 Qc6 23 Bf2 Qd6 24 Bg3 Qc6 25 Bf2 Qd6 26 Bg3 Qc6 27 Bf2 Qd6 28 Bg3 Qc6 29 Bf2 Qd6 30 Bg3 Qc6 31 Bf2 Qd6 32 Bg3 Qc6 33 Bf2 Qd6 34 Bg3 Qc6 35 Bf2 Qd6 36 Bg3 Qc6 37 Bf2 Qd6 38 Bg3 Qc6 39 Bf2 Qd6 40 Bg3 Qc6 41 Bf2 Qd6 42 Bg3 Qc6 43 Bf2 Qd6 44 Bg3 Qc6 45 Bf2 Qd6 46 Bg3 Qc6 47 Bf2 Qd6 48 Bg3 Qc6 49 Bf2 Qd6 50 Bg3 Qc6 51 Bf2 Qd6 52 Bg3 Qc6 53 Bf2 Qd6 54 Bg3 Qc6 55 Bf2 Qd6 56 Bg3 Qc6 57 Bf2 Qd6 58 Bg3 Qc6 59 Bf2 Qd6 60 Bg3 Qc6 61 Bf2 Qd6 62 Bg3 Qc6 63 Bf2 Qd6 64 Bg3 Qc6 65 Bf2 Qd6 66 Bg3 Qc6 67 Bf2 Qd6 68 Bg3 Qc6 69 Bf2 Qd6 70 Bg3 Qc6 71 Bf2 Qd6 72 Bg3 Qc6 73 Bf2 Qd6 74 Bg3 Qc6 75 Bf2 Qd6 76 Bg3 Qc6 77 Bf2 Qd6 78 Bg3 Qc6 79 Bf2 Qd6 80 Bg3 Qc6 81 Bf2 Qd6 82 Bg3 Qc6 83 Bf2 Qd6 84 Bg3 Qc6 85 Bf2 Qd6 86 Bg3 Qc6 87 Bf2 Qd6 88 Bg3 Qc6 89 Bf2 Qd6 90 Bg3 Qc6 91 Bf2 Qd6 92 Bg3 Qc6 93 Bf2 Qd6 94 Bg3 Qc6 95 Bf2 Qd6 96 Bg3 Qc6 97 Bf2 Qd6 98 Bg3 Qc6 99 Bf2 Qd6 100 Bg3 Qc6

Jon Speelman offered a draw and Nigel Short accepted.

## Overtime ban will affect Broadmoor

By Andrew Morgan

The Prison Officers' Association last night predicted that there would be widespread problems at Broadmoor top security hospital in Berkshire this weekend as their total ban on overtime begins to bite.

About seventy nursing staff will not be available as a result of the ban, which has been in force since last Wednesday. Visits and social functions for most of the 475 patients are likely to be stopped and patients, many with psychotic conditions, could be locked in their rooms for 23 hours a day.

The association and the Prison Department were still holding talks last night on the dispute over manning levels at Holloway women's prison, north London, where officers have been on strike for three weeks. Prison officers have threatened to widen their action from next week if there is no settlement.

The association branch at Broadmoor also issued an ultimatum to management, saying they would take legal action if staff were injured over the weekend as a result of being told to handle patients while there was not a full personnel complement.

Miss Bridget Sampson, a member of the branch committee, said she worked 78 hours overtime last week.

She insisted that no hospital could be expected to operate properly with overtime requirements of such a magnitude.

She said that dances and visits this morning and afternoon would be cancelled and church and other visits tomorrow would have to be stopped.

"Many of the patients here are in a disturbed state and being locked up for so long will make them more irritable and potentially dangerous. We feel sorry for them, but the department has forced our hand."

The department of health said the hospital management intended redeploying non-nursing staff but it conceded that social activities would be reduced. Management will decide this morning on which non-association staff should assist patients.

Officers at 18 prisons, including other women's establishments, are currently taking industrial action, mostly in support of their colleagues at Holloway.

They are refusing to handle new admissions and this has forced hundreds of prisoners into police cells, which are designed only for short-term accommodation.

Two army camps are currently being used to handle prisoners and the Home Office admits that it has detailed contingency plans if the prisons dispute deepens.

However, it insists that no details will be revealed until they are obliged to put the plans into operation.

## Keeping control of the long-distance prisoners

Prisoners who are suicidal, violent and mentally defective are among hundreds of Metropolitan Police prisoners being moved to police cells around the country from the nerve-centre at the Lambeth holding base, south London.

The daily operation has more than doubled since July when prison officers at London jails, in support of striking officers at Holloway, refused to handle new admissions. About 100 prisoners a day are now transported to police cells from Lambeth.

London prisoners were last night housed in police cells as far away as Richmond, in North Yorkshire, Llanelli, in Carmarthen and Caerphilly, in south Wales. One sergeant and 10 officers handle the coach movements, which usually take out 15 prisoners and bring back 12. Those in police vans with 14 cells are watched by a single officer.

Others have been sent to Greater Manchester and East Anglia, but police forces there are now accepting only local prisoners as a result of action at Norwich and Strangeways jails.

The Lambeth operations room has wall charts detailing itineraries, prisoner status, court appear-

ances and the names of problematic prisoners, cryptically put as "Dagenham suicidal, Grimsby, heart condition, not eating; Dymchurch, alcoholic and disruptive".

About 76 prisoners are classified as dangerous, and there are attempts to get them into local prisons but the present industrial action is forcing them further afield. Chief Inspector Anthony MacDermott, in charge of the Lambeth operation, said: "Some have definite medical and psychological problems and should be in a prison hospital rather than police cells. They are not designed for short-term accommodation and don't have the security factors built in."

"Officers looking after prisoners in insecure conditions are under great stress and have to be constantly aware of the problems of attack and escape, but they have no real sanction."

Action is co-ordinated by the Mutual Aid Co-operation unit, at Scotland Yard, which the Association of Chief Police Officers set up last October to cope with the growing problem of prison overcrowding.



The figures show the number of prisoners from London.

Police cells would rapidly reach bursting point if the prison officers stepped up their action, but Mr Roger Birch, chief constable of Sussex and president of ACPO, declined to specify the breaking point.

Yesterday the Metropolitan Force had 864 prisoners, with 269 in the London area and 595 held by provincial forces. In addition, there are 405 provincial prisoners locked out. They are held at 53 London police stations and by 23 provincial forces.

Officers from London divisions are "loaned" to the distribution centre to escort prisoners in up to six public coaches and five police transit vans along circuitous routes to several forces.

In a system called "hot-bunking", the arriving prisoners take the place of those due back in London for remand. The round trips, often lasting up to 15 hours, usually take place at night.

Lambeth's 80 officers and 20 drivers are used mainly, with a further 80 officers on loan who spend a week on escort duty before being replaced.

## LOCATION/NUMBERS OF LONDON PRISONERS IN POLICE CELLS

Force	Police station	Prisoners
Avon/Somerset	Bristol	16
Bedfordshire	Luton	20
Cheshire	Congleton	4
	Crewe	6
	Northwich	1
	Runcorn	2
Derbyshire	Chesterfield	14
Devon/ Cornwall	Lamperton	12
	Plymouth	18
Gloucestershire	Stroud	13
Gwent	Newport	7
	Ebbw Vale	7
Hampshire	Farnborough	6
	Fratton	5
	Lymington	19
Humbly	Hull	57
	Grimsby	37
Leicestershire	Melton Mowbray	12
Merseyside	Liverpool (Bridgeway)	29
	Wallasey	4
	St Helens	10
North Yorkshire	Richmond	13
Northants	Corby	9
Nottinghamshire	Nottingham	18
Shropshire	Addlestone	16
Staffordshire	Guildford	3
Thames Valley	Reigate	2
	Halsham	1
	Eastbourne	2
South Wales	Swansea	12
	Caerphilly	27
South Yorkshire	Doncaster	22
	Rotherham	26
	Sheffield	43
	Stoke-on-Trent	14
	Amersham	18
	Newbury	9
	Reading	11
	Wantage	11
	Windsor	9
Warwickshire	Milton Keynes	5
	Leamington Spa	8
West Mercia	Nuneaton	8
	Worcester	9
	Telford	10
West Midlands	Birmingham	16
	Coventry	27
	Stourbridge	13
	West Bromwich	12
	Walsall	18
Wiltshire	Swindon	16

## Air taskforce demands action across Europe

By Harvey Elliott, Air Correspondent

An international taskforce drawn from airlines, airports, and regulatory organizations, has prepared a seven-point manifesto for dealing with air traffic congestion.

The plan, to be unveiled in detail next week, will be put to governments throughout Europe. The taskforce is calling for urgent action to cope with the rapid growth in air travel which has led to misery for thousands of scheduled and charter air passengers.

Among the recommendations from the International Air Transport Association (IATA), the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) and the Airport Association's Co-ordinating Council (AACC) is immediate action to build more runways at many of the most congested airports throughout

the Continent, including Gatwick.

They also want a lifting of night curfew noise restrictions; the removal of private recreational aircraft from busy international airports; greater use of military airspace; a single European air traffic control system, a unified flow management system and more air traffic controllers.

Many of the proposals are bound to run into fierce opposition from politicians and environmental groups.

Airlines are becoming increasingly concerned about congestion, which is causing more than three times as many delays to scheduled flights as it did last year.

Herr Karl-Heinz Neumeister, secretary general of the Association of European Airlines, said: "The average pas-

senger on scheduled flights is not being delayed to the extent that charter passengers have been. However the situation is definitely getting worse."

"The way scheduled airlines operate has not changed but what has changed is the

## FLIGHTCHECK



shortfall between the demand for air transport and the capacity of the existing infrastructure.

"What is needed urgently is increased investment in airport and air traffic control facilities, but even this will not be enough without a co-ordinated European approach."

Meanwhile the threat of a nationwide air controllers' strike still hangs over Spain as administration officials and controllers talked for hours here in what is expected to be merely the first session of a new round of talks (Harry Debelius, in Madrid, writes).

The strike is still on, beginning August 27. Senior Juan Garcia Gil, president of the Catalan Air Controllers' Union, said he arrived for the meeting at the Ministry of Transport, Tourism and Communications.

The industrial action, which is expected to involve controllers at most of Spain's major airports, could greatly delay the departure or arrival of hundreds of thousands of holidaymakers.

The two weekends at the end of August and the begin-

ning of September are among the busiest in the year in terms of air traffic over Spain.

However, Mr Alan Flook, secretary of the International Federation of Tour Operators, said he was now "very optimistic" action would not go ahead.

British airports were expected to be able to offer holidaymakers a relatively delay-free weekend tomorrow and Sunday with no air traffic control problems expected.

Condit: An Inter European Airways flight from Zakynthos due at 4.30pm, but did not land until 5.30pm.

Manchester: A British Airways flight from Geneva was three hours late at 6.14pm.

Luton: A Britannia Airways flight to Catania left nearly two hours late at 5.55pm.

No delays at Gatwick, Heathrow, Leeds/Bradford or Newcastle.

## Housekeeper's £1.5m secret

By Ian Smith

Mrs Jennie Bunting, housekeeper to the rich and famous, was feared that she would be left penniless upon retirement. Modesty in expenditure, she decided, was the only way of avoiding poverty.

Now she has confounded friends and neighbours by leaving £1.5 million in her will, all but a modest amount bequeathed to her favourite charities.

The astonishing housekeeper, who died aged 89 on May 30, never gave reason to suspect her wealth.

After the death during the Second World War of her husband, a studio photographer in Middlesex, Mrs Bunting had a fortune. "She had no airs and graces and the most she would ever treat herself to was an occasional lunch with friends. She

was determined not to part with a penny while she was alive because she was worried about falling on hard times."

Mrs Bunting had left all but £120,000 of her £1,567,538 estate to the Salvation Army, the British Heart Foundation and Age Concern. The rest is set aside for personal legacy.

"She was kind hearted and always planned to give everything away, but the thought of being left without the means to support herself while she was alive", Mr Harris added.

Mr Douglas Harris, a solicitor and friend who was executor of her will, said yesterday that he was not surprised that no one ever suspected that Mrs Bunting had a fortune.



# Naked millionaire escapes after stabbing burglar

By Edward Gorman

A millionaire escaped naked from his mansion in Kent early yesterday after stabbing a burglar three times with a ceremonial dagger.

Mr Michael Millward, aged 53, was so desperate to get out of the house after launching himself at the burglar of three, who were armed with hammers and a revolver, that he jumped out of his first-floor bathroom window and crashed to the ground under a pile of guttering.

Ignoring his parked Rolls-Royce, he opted instead for his battered old Datsun to make his escape.

"I was still naked at this stage," he said, "but luckily there was an old tracksuit in the back seat and I put that on to avoid giving anyone a shock."

Mr Millward, of Westerham Hill, who has been robbed twice before, had been woken by creaking floorboards after the burglars entered the house through an open ground-floor window.

He grabbed a ceremonial dagger — one of four he had in a private collection which he kept in his bedroom — and opened his bedroom door, to be confronted by a figure dressed in black.

"Only his eyes were showing through this in his mask," Mr Millward said.

"He took three steps towards me as I backed into the room and I realized I would have to attack him before he attacked me — there was no other way out."

Mr Millward said he stuck the dagger into the man's chest and shoulder. "I don't remember the knife going in, but within seconds there was

Ned Sherrin, the broadcaster, refused to obey armed bank raiders as they ordered him to lie down during a robbery this week.

A stickler for style, he felt that lying on the floor of his local Barclays Bank in the King's Road, Chelsea, south-west London, was "undignified".

The host of Radio 4's *Loose Ends* thought it was a practical joke, until the raiders started smashing security screens with sawn-off shotguns.

Mr Sherrin, aged 57, said yesterday:

"They kept yelling get down, get down, but it seemed so undignified — one didn't."

Police said three men escaped with £3,081 after the robbery on Thursday.

blood everywhere. It was on everything he touched as he staggered back."

Seizing his chance, Mr Millward then slammed the bathroom door and jumped screaming to the ground.

"I just opened the window and started yelling. They stopped battering on the door and I opened the window to jump out."

"I grabbed the guttering, but the pipes gave way and I crashed to the ground, hurting myself badly on one side."

Mr Millward ran naked in front of his house, passed the Rolls-Royce and roared off in the Datsun.

"Someone was working hard at the garage near by and called the police for me," he said. "But by the time the police arrived the gang had

long gone and there was blood everywhere."

Police say the raiders took only Mr Millward's Remington repeater shotgun as they escaped.

Doctors and hospitals in the area have been placed on alert in case the robber asks for emergency treatment.

Kent police said: "The chances are the injured man is going to need stitches at the very least." He added that the police accept that Mr Millward was acting in self-defence.

The police said Mr Millward's bravery unnerved the raiders and stopped them escaping with anything other than Mr Millward's shotgun.

"I think the shock of being attacked was enough to frighten them and once they realized Mr Millward had got away, they knew it would not be long before the alarm was raised. They certainly didn't hang around," police said.

Last night Mr Millward, who lives alone and describes himself as a "modest property owner", said: "I wouldn't say I would recommend people to have a go at burglars, but in this case it was them or me."

"This is my home, and no one is going to drive me from it."

The robbers were not the only ones to gain. Mr Millward said: "I made a profit as well."

"They left a ladder, a cap, a service revolver with its barrel blocked and a hammer. My gun was worth more than all of that, but at least I got something out of it."

Security at Mr Millward's mansion is being tightened.

## A-level results

# Hundreds failed by mistake

By David Tytler, Education Editor

A computer error in A level results has left hundreds of pupils believing they had failed and many others thinking their grades were lower than those achieved, so putting their university places in jeopardy.

Officials of the Oxford and Cambridge Schools Examination Board yesterday re-processed all the history of art A level results, which would improve the grades of most candidates, giving passes sufficient for university entry.

When complaints were first made the board insisted there was no mistake.

However, yesterday Mr Kurt Schoenenberger, secretary for the board, said: "We have worked all day to put this right. The new grades have now been sent to the Universities Central Council on Admissions so that nobody will lose a university place as a result. I want to make the point that we have worked very quickly."

The error was discovered

when one of the board's examiners received the results for his own school and said they did not match the general quality of the papers he had seen. A check was then made.

Mr Schoenenberger said the mistake was made after the correct marks were sent from his Oxford office to the computing centre at Cambridge where they were incorrectly punched into the computer, giving students one or two grades less than their marks deserved.

Most universities demand grades A to C for entrance, although the boards say that anybody gaining D or E has passed.

One of the worst affected schools was Fettes College in Edinburgh where all 10 pupils who took the A level were told they had failed. The regradings will mean that eight of the 10, who did well in other subjects, will be given pass grades.

Mr Robert Philp, director of studies at Fettes, said the

results were "unprecedented" and that he would still make a joint appeal against the results.

The college has been running history of art courses for four years and all pupils who sat the examination in 1987 passed.

Mr Philp said: "We were satisfied that all the theses were of a comparable standard to last year and we would have expected the candidates to have done equally well in the other papers."

"This is unprecedented and we are now conducting an inquiry to see what went wrong."

When asked about the results from Fettes, Mr Schoenenberger said: "Well, they have done very badly in history of art."

"There was, however, what we all call a computer error and their grades have been improved. This is a very small error and I am just very relieved it did not happen in English or maths."

# Army women in the front line



Lieutenant Julie Owen, left, and Lieutenant Kate Boxell practise their skills yesterday with a defused bomb at Chatterden.

Lieutenant Kate Boxell, admitted to being "petrified" when selected for training as the Army's first woman bomb disposal expert.

"I was in a right panic and I didn't tell my mum that I was doing the training course," she said.

Lieutenant Julie Owen, was "delighted" when she successfully became the first woman UXB expert in the Territorial Army with a Brighton-based squadron of the 101 (London) Engineer Regiment. "At least it's the sort of thing

that if it goes wrong, you really don't know anything about it," she said.

"It is exciting work and not the sort of thing you can do in civilian life."

Lieutenant Owen, aged 22, from Poole, Dorset, who intends to train as a solicitor, added: "I did a seven-week Regular Army course on bomb disposal."

Although the two pioneers do not work on "live" bombs during peacetime, it is almost certain they would be used in wars to defend enemy weapons in Britain.

As more women train as bomb disposal

experts, it is widely expected they will help to clear the 45-year backlog of explosive ordnance work, such as bombs from the Second World War — but they will not face terrorist bombs.

Lieutenant Boxell, aged 23, from Sheffield, South Yorkshire, who is Assistant Adjutant with 33 Engineer Regiment (Explosive Ordnance Disposal) at Chatterden, Kent, said she suffers pangs of envy when she sees male colleagues going off to start work on live bombs.

## Athlete in rumpus over debt

The Midland Bank wrote a letter of apology yesterday to one of Britain's top Olympic athletes after a branch had threatened to stop him going to the Seoul Olympics because of his £4,000 overdraft.

The branch in Queens Square, Wolverhampton, West Midlands, warned Paul Edwards, aged 29, Britain's top shot putter, that his passport could be confiscated and threatened legal action against him. The letter from Mr Jerry Green, operations officer, referred specifically to the Seoul Olympics next month.

Mr Green claimed that the way Mr Edwards had handled his account in previous weeks was "little short of theft". Mr Edwards said yesterday: "I won't let the bank destroy my dream of competing in the Olympics. They are trying to blackmail me. It's cheap and nasty." He said he ran up the debt through £90 a week food bills and travelling expenses. He said the letter was the first concerning the debt.

In London, a Midland Bank spokesman said: "We have written tonight apologizing to Mr Edwards. This was over the top. The letter should never have been sent. The language used I have never seen in a letter from a bank before. We have no excuse."

## Jailed victim 'must be paid'

By Frances Gibb, Legal Affairs Correspondent

The Law Society's refusal to pay compensation to a woman who was wrongly committed to prison and lost her flat because of a solicitor's actions has been condemned by the Lay Observer.

Mr Lionel Lightman, who studies the society's response to complaints against solicitors, is again calling on the society to pay compensation to the woman who was not granted legal aid to pursue her case in the courts.

He is taking up the matter because the society has rejected the recommendation in its annual report that it should pay compensation.

In that report, Mr Lightman

recommended a "substantial payment" to the woman, whose valuable flat in the West End of London was her sole asset.

She did not obtain legal aid to bring proceedings against the errant solicitor in spite of a strong recommendation by Lord Denning, then Master of the Rolls, who said: "If anything has gone wrong, the law should do all it can to see that it is put right."

Mr Lightman concludes the lack of legal aid was the main reason the woman received no compensation.

The Law Society has rejected the Lay Observer's criticisms and points out that

the "complainant never submitted any legal aid application".

It said that its legal aid committee, responsible for the administration of public legal aid funds, has considered the matter and decided that since no application was ever submitted, nor was there any power, to make any payment.

Mr Lightman said: "Frankly I am extremely surprised that the Law Society has attempted to rely on the argument that a formal legal aid application was never made." He had pointed out that was a technicality it should not rely on.

## Phone bill overpaid — by £83,000

By Michael Horsnell

Clark's, the shoe manufacturer, has been asked to foot bills totalling £83,375 by British Telecom for telephone equipment it no longer has.

The company, the biggest shoe-maker in Britain, only discovered the error when Mr Chris Clarke, an executive in its information services department, was examining company accounts at its head-

quarters in Street, Somerset.

British Telecom responded yesterday by saying that it is up to customers to detect mistakes in billing, but refunded the money without argument.

Mr Clarke found Clark's had been overpaying by more than £20,000 a year for four years for 65 telephone lines it no longer rents from BT. The

company has 2,000 employees at its headquarters and about 1,200 telephones.

Mr Clarke said: "We were aghast when we realized they were overcharging us by so much."

British Telecom said: "We were genuinely unaware they were not using the equipment."

## Charles I poser for the police

By Alan Hamilton

Scotland Yard forensic scientists have been asked to examine the Woodstock clothing of a man convicted not only of murder but of being a public enemy. The man, Charles Stuart, was said in court to have committed high treason and other high crimes against the realm of England.

Unfortunately the tests are likely to prove futile and will certainly make no difference to the sentence. The prisoner was beheaded outside the Banqueting House in Whitehall on January 30, 1649.

King Charles I's knitted silk vest, owned by the Museum of London and now on display in the Banqueting House as part of an exhibition to mark the 300th anniversary of the Glorious Revolution of 1688, is to be sent for analysis by Miss Kay Stannard, keeper of the museum's costume department.

She hopes that scientific examination of traces of human matter on the vest will show Charles' blood group, whether he was suffering from any disease and whether he vomited as he laid his head on the block.

The museum wants to increase its knowledge of the king's last moments in time for the 340th anniversary of his execution next year.

Mr Peter Martin, deputy director of the Metropolitan Police Forensic Science Laboratory at Lambeth, said yesterday: "If this thing comes in here it will go to the bottom of a very large pile. Frankly, we have more important work to do." Little could be discovered after 339 years, he said.

## 10,000 police will be at Notting Hill

By David Sapsted

More than a third of London's police will be on the streets during the Notting Hill carnival next weekend in an attempt to isolate the muggers and rioters that have marred the event in previous years.

Deputy Assistant Commissioner Paul Condon, the officer responsible for maintaining order at the event, the largest street festival in Europe, yesterday said he had made public safety the priority at this year's carnival.

"This is not going to be the year of confrontation between the police and the community. If anyone is planning to come to the carnival looking for

confrontation, they will be disappointed," he said.

"My advice to the public is to come early and leave early, certainly before it gets dark. With up to a million people on the streets at any one time, there will inevitably be those who want to commit crime or create disorders but, with the help of the carnival organizers, we hope we will be able to isolate the trouble-makers this year."

Agreement was reached with the Notting Hill Carnival and Arts Committee on a number of changes. Mr Condon believes these are essential to evolutionary alterations in the organization which will

result in the main events being staged somewhere other than on the streets of Notting Hill.

The main points of the agreement included sealing off certain streets, giving emergency services better access, and an agreement to end most of the activities at 8.30 pm on Sunday and Monday.

Up to 10,000 of London's 27,800 policemen and women will be on duty over the two days.

Last year 1,200 crimes were reported and there were 250 arrests during the two days, with another 70 in the ensuing weeks. One man was stabbed to death and 13 police officers

were injured.

The Notting Hill committee undertook to provide 500 stewards but there have been recruitment problems.

After a meeting with the organizers on Thursday Mr Condon said he believed that the difficulties would be resolved by next Sunday.

Mr Condon, who describes the carnival as "for the most part, a superb multicultural pageant", refuses to echo MPs who want it stopped.

"It is not a police carnival. We do not authorize or license it. It is a community event; it is for the community to decide," he said.

Safer carnival, page 8

## 'Blackmail to pay for house'

A couple blackmailed a businessman into handing over £83,500 by pretending that his adultery had destroyed their marriage, a jury was told yesterday.

But the husband and his wife were living happily together and looking for a house to buy with the money they had extorted from the wealthy company director.

Mr Christopher Ball, for the prosecution, said the businessman, aged 45, was lured to a north London house and secretly filmed in a compromising position with the wife.

Later the Central Criminal Court heard that her husband, a chauffeur aged 42, turned up

at his factory and accused him of having an affair with the wife. Mr Ball said the businessman denied the allegations but was confronted with a video recording.

The jury was told that the husband said: "You have ruined my life. You have ruined my marriage."

He then demanded the money so that he could start a new life in Egypt with his three children. The clothing manufacturer paid £80,000 into the husband's bank account in return for the video cassette.

Soon after he paid the money, the wife appeared in the businessman's office very upset. She claimed he was

responsible for her husband and children leaving her and asked for more money to search for them abroad. She said she had a copy of the video and threatened to expose him if he did not pay up. He paid her £3,500.

"He thought he had split the family. Faced with the threat from the wife he felt he did not help her he would be exposed", Mr Ball said. "He had been fooled good and proper. The couple remained together and started house-hunting on their proceeds."

The couple both deny three charges of blackmail and attempted blackmail.

The hearing continues.

## Working amid 'madness' on the M25

Peter Ryan is a gang leader on a road widening project on the M25, Britain's busiest motorway and rapidly developing a reputation as the most dangerous. In a week when a mother and her three young daughters were killed on the road, GERRARD SMITH spent a hazardous day with Mr Ryan and the men who are trying to make it a safer place.

If the men in Peter Ryan's gang step out of line, the least they can expect is a reprimand, the worst is to be left squashed across the asphalt.

Discipline is essential, for the men risk injury even if they do take every precaution. "You need four eyes on this job," Mr Ryan said, as traffic roared by, much of it ignoring the 50mph speed limit on the stretch between Chertsey and Reigate in Surrey.

"The other day I looked up from a trench to see a car bearing down on us at about 60mph. It had smashed through a row of cones. The driver was reading a map. He swerved just in time and drove off."

Other motorists, frustrated at delays caused by the project on which Mr Ryan has worked for a year, have pelted him with tomatoes, eggs, tin cans and bricks

as they passed. Only the eggs found their mark, but, as he says, an 80mph egg is no joke.

"It's hard to believe how stupid drivers can be. Once, two cars stopped to swap luggage in an active lane of the contrail. Others have tried to avoid static traffic by going through the road works themselves. Most have got stuck behind lorries delivering asphalt, and serve them right. One couple of old ladies drove down a works slip-road to brew a cup of tea on a police patrol car ramp."

The job is dangerous enough even without such stupidity or malice. On Thursday, a lorry jack-knifed through a line of cones. Nobody was hurt, but it had happened at the same time yesterday someone would have died.

Other lorries have shed loads on the working area. Consignments of nappies and gypsum powder, glass and live chickens have been deposited on the site. Sometimes a car makes an entrance on its roof. The most recent spun, skidded 50 yards upside down and, just after the driver emerged, burst into flames. No one was hurt.

Back on the site, Mr Ryan sleeps in a caravan where his lullaby is the roar of traffic, his bed rocked by the weight of

passing juggernauts. Even his lavatory is perched in the middle of a row of cones, shaken by the stream of vehicles hurtling by just inches away.

The consulting engineers, L G Mouchel and Partners, spent weeks working out where and when to place the 10,000 or so traffic cones so as to cut down delays and risks, and the police use speed checks conducted from bridges along the route, which is monitored through closed-circuit television, to keep drivers in check.

However, according to Jeff Sharpe, chief project engineer, it is still not safe enough. The reason is speed. "Too many people do not observe the mandatory limit. They drive too close to each other," he says. "We have asked the police for more patrol cars, but they just cannot provide them. They are already over-committed."

Other ideas have included placing flashing blue lights at the side of the road, or even installing cardboard cut-out police cars, but these have been rejected.

"The police have told us that we must practise for a serious accident, with casualties. One day, they say, we will have one. And there is really not much else we can do", Mr Sharpe said.

## Portfolio PLUS NEW Accumulator Weekend surprise

A surprise long weekend away for two is in store for Mrs High Mackay, who does not yet know that her husband was yesterday's sole winner of the daily Portfolio prize of £4,000.

Mr Mackay, a chartered accountant from Wandsworth, south-west London, plans to whisk his wife away for a short holiday abroad. "We will probably spend the rest of redecorating the flat", he said. Mr Mackay has been a Times reader for 15 years.

## Two firemen questioned

Two part-time firemen were being questioned by police in north Essex yesterday after a spate of small grass and barn fires and bogus emergency calls in the past two months. Detectives listened to tape-recordings of 999 calls.

The men, who have not been named, are said to belong to the retained brigade at Combe Martin. Members of the brigade of 14, who have other jobs and are on call 24 hours a day, receive £7.20 a call-out and £3.21 for every hour on duty as well as a retainer of £975 a year.

## Failed escape

Jennifer Nicol, aged 20, of Waltham, south-west London, was sentenced in the Central Criminal Court yesterday to three years in youth custody for conspiring to rob a Hertfordshire supermarket. Her had driving in a getaway car led to it being traced.

## Swan jam

Traffic jams built up when motorway police closed a section of the nearby lane on the M2 in Kent yesterday so it could become a runway for a swan. The frightened bird had been seen struggling by the roadside near junction 2.

## Kidnap charge

Ahmed Patel, aged 42, of Blackburn, Lancashire, and Badrudin Bhutawale, aged 31, of Manor Park, east London, accused of kidnapping a girl aged 17, were remanded on bail yesterday at Old Street Magistrates' Court, central London.

## Bomb alarm

Mr Roy Hughes, Labour MP for Newport East, yesterday called for an inquiry after a crate of bombs designed for air-to-ground combat was dropped at docks in Newport, Gwent, last week. The Ministry of Defence said there was no public danger.

## Balcony death

An inquest on Hannah Barz, aged 12, one of five girls who fell when a third-floor balcony rail gave way at the Hotel Esentepe, Bodrum, Turkey, was opened in Cardiff yesterday when the coroner appealed for an eye-witness to come forward. The other four survived.

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## Turbo-powered Fords gutted to take stolen cigarettes and electrical goods

# Nine are jailed for military-style raids that amassed £1.3m

By Michael Horsnell

Nine members of a gang which netted more than £1.3 million of stolen goods in raids on shops and stores were jailed yesterday.

The men, who stole high-powered cars to outrun pursuing police, struck at supermarkets and newsagents throughout south-west England and Wales.

The gang, which sometimes used high-technology equipment to deactivate security devices, established an experienced network of "fences" to whom they sold the stolen property.

Bristol Crown Court was told that at the height of its activities last year, the gang which was equipped with combat knives and balaclavas, amassed a fortune from stolen cigarettes, drink, films and electrical goods in up to three raids a week.

Mr Alun Jenkins, for the prosecution, said the gang immobilized exterior burglar alarms by covering them in foam and then waited to see if police arrived.

If the police were not

alerted, small teams loaded goods into the Ford Cosworths and turbo-powered Escorts, which had been gutted to take the stolen goods. The gang was trapped after a year-long surveillance operation by the South West Regional Crime Squad.

Yesterday the ringleaders, Richard Eddy, aged 24, a salesman from Eastville, Bristol, and Stephen Walls, aged 28, unemployed from Greenbank, Bristol, were jailed for six years each for offences linked to the burglaries.

Towns in which the gang struck included Cardiff, Wincanton, Somerset, and Bristol, where one store in the Henbury area was robbed three times in three months.

Seven other gang members, aged between 20 and 29, admitted 43 charges including burglary, theft of cars, possession of a shotgun and conspiracy to burgle. They were given sentences ranging from 18 months youth custody to four years in prison.

Judge Fallon QC, passing sentence, said the gang used a

sophisticated system to carry out its string of night-time raids.

He said: "The system involved stealing highly powered cars which could, if necessary, outstrip the speed of any pursuing police cars. Premises only equipped with goods of high value were targeted with care."

Referring to Eddy, a £200-a-week self-employed salesman, the judge said: "I have no doubt that, as the police officer said, you were largely responsible for the system."

The seven on charges linked to the raids were Sena Hayden, 22, of Willsbridge; Barry Russ, 21, of Longwell Green; Robert Jones, 23, of Highridge; Simon Monks, 20, of Eastville; Dean Stowell, 27, of Easton; Craig Canham, 29, of Bedminster; and Terry Guy, 25, of Bishopsworth, all in Bristol.

Two other men, Kenneth Summerell, aged 42, and Michael Wheeler, aged 39, both from Fishponds, Bristol, were jailed for a year each on handling charges.



The armoury of equipment used by the £1.3 million raiders and the ringleaders, Richard Eddy (top) and Stephen Walls.



## Arrested policeman killed in 300ft fall

A policeman fell 300ft to his death from a viaduct after being arrested for questioning John Patrick Montague-Williams, aged 36, was helping with inquiries into offences allegedly committed in Sussex.

A widespread search had been launched after Mr Montague-Williams, a British Transport Police officer, disappeared on Monday night.

He was taken last night from Brecon police station, Powys, to Merthyr Tydfil, in Mid Glamorgan, handcuffed to a police officer.

Police said he was helping to recover property believed to be in the area, but broke free and fell from the viaduct at Pont Sarn, which overlooks a whirlpool in the Blue Pool.

He had indicated earlier this week that he intended to kill himself. A senior officer with the Dyfed-Powys force is to hold an inquiry into the death.

Mr Montague-Williams, a single man based at Brighton, East Sussex, lived with his elderly mother at Ditching.

Sussex police said: "We are not confirming details of the criminal offences which were under investigation. He was on police bail."

"It is not definite at this stage there would have been sufficient evidence to charge him."

## Rail price rises

# Commuters signal their fury on fares

By Emma Wilkins

In the first-class compartment of the 5.50 am Newcastle to London InterCity 125, the talk was of lynching parties and Machiavellian plots.

In common with commuters throughout Britain's rail network, many had just realized the full impact of reports that British Rail plans to double the cost of season tickets.

A pass for Newcastle regulars, for instance, is likely to rise from £6,992 to just under £14,000, first-class, and £5,000 to £10,000, second-class. British Rail's claim that long-distance executive travellers are thin on the ground would not wash among the power-breakfasters in the silver service buffet car.

Mr Conrad Monk, a regular commuter who joins the train at Peterborough, said: "We all had hysterics at the news. There was almost a lynching party on the station platform."

It was a scene being repeated on trains up and down the country yesterday after the news of the season ticket rises, expected to take effect from January, sank in. It could push up the cost of an annual first-class season ticket to Peterborough from £2,844 to £5,688.

Mr Monk believes that British Rail leaked the figure of 100 per cent increases to provoke relief when smaller rises were announced. "This is the most cynical manipulation of a situation which ordinary people cannot control", he said.

"I find it ironic that British Rail actively encouraged people to travel on these InterCity trains and yet, now, they are tightening the noose round our necks. I know people who

have moved from London, bought a cheaper house, got a mortgage, organized children into schools and suddenly have been asked to pay an extra £2,000 or £3,000."

Mr Monk, aged 51, started his own ironmongery company 22 years ago, after 10 years as an actor. He had parts in *Z Cars* and *Dixon of Dock Green*. He moved to a seven-acre estate in what used to be Rutland 16 months ago, after living in Knightsbridge, central London, for more than thirty years. "I believed the quality of life in London had deteriorated substantially", he said.

"There was nowhere to park — the noise, the clamps and the tourists were all awful", he added.

He sold his home in London and bought an 18-bedroom early Victorian country house, which he now values at £750,000, almost double its original price.

"I now live surrounded by horses and dogs", he said. "It is a whole new way of life. When I announced that I was moving, all my friends said I was crazy, and that I would be back in London by the weekend, but now I wish I had moved out 10 years ago."

Mr Terence Suthers, assistant director of the Science Museum in London, makes the two-hour journey from York to London twice or three times a week. He has bought a one-bedroom flat in Richmond, south-west London, for £85,000, but prefers to stay in his house in York.

"The rise in fares will certainly affect me", he said. "I will have to think more carefully about how often I travel."

Hebden Bridge riding high thanks to trains

By Christopher Warras, Property Correspondent

The little town of Hebden Bridge in North Yorkshire, which achieved an unhappy prominence in the 1970s, is now enjoying a housing price boom. Long-distance commuters to London have been lured by relatively near fast rail links to the South.

The town made headlines in the 1970s when it was disclosed that more than 70 workers at the Acro Mill asbestos factory there had died of asbestosis. The factory was closed in 1971, and a decision to demolish it was taken in 1978.

After many years demolition began and is now almost completed. Health and Safety Executive staff were recently called in to make sure the site was safe.

Hebden Bridge is in one of the areas now benefiting from improved rail and road links. It is enjoying a house price boom nobody could have foreseen a few years ago when it was a declining mill town.

Now it proudly regards itself as the gateway to the Pennines, has a thriving tourist industry and is proving attractive to the home buyer from London and the South who either wants to commute weekly or work in the area.

Prices are not on the London scale, but recent increases have enabled previous owners to "rub their hands in glee", according to the local estate agents, Mawson and Walton of the Hamble Countrywide

## Major motorway maintenance schemes 1988/89.

MOTORWAY	LOCATION	DATES
M1	JUNC. 4-JUNC. 5	APRIL-NOVEMBER
M1	JUNC. 13-Mp940	APRIL-MAY
M1	TINSLEY VIADUCT	MAY-JULY
M1	JUNC. 40-JUNC. 41	JULY-NOVEMBER
M2	JUNC. 5-JUNC. 7	MAY-AUGUST
M4	JUNC. 12-JUNC. 13	MAY-JULY
M4	SEVERN BRIDGE	AUGUST
M5	OLDBURY VIADUCT	APRIL-MAY
M5	JUNC. 4-JUNC. 6	ONGOING
M5	JUNC. 4-JUNC. 8	TEMPORARY CLOSURES
M5	JUNC. 9-JUNC. 11	APRIL-JULY
M5	JUNC. 22-JUNC. 24	ONGOING
M5	JUNC. 34-JUNC. 25	APRIL-MAY
M6	JUNC. 5-JUNC. 7	MAY-JULY
M6	JUNC. 16-JUNC. 17	APRIL-JULY
M6	JUNC. 29-JUNC. 31	APRIL-JULY
M6	JUNC. 41-JUNC. 42	APRIL-MAY
M11	JUNC. 7	APRIL-SEPTEMBER
M25	JUNC. 11-JUNC. 13	JUNE-MARCH
M40	JUNC. 5-JUNC. 7	MAY-NOVEMBER
M42	JUNC. 5-JUNC. 6	APRIL-JUNE
M62	JUNC. 21-JUNC. 22	APRIL-DECEMBER
M62	JUNC. 25-JUNC. 26	APRIL-MAY
M63	JUNC. 2-JUNC. 5	APRIL-MARCH
M63	JUNC. 3-JUNC. 6	AUGUST-NOVEMBER
M69	JUNC. 1-M6	AUGUST-OCTOBER
A1(M)	DISHFORTH	ONGOING
A1(M)	MARR-REDHOUSE	APRIL-MAY
A1(M)	TEES BRIDGE	JUNE-SEPTEMBER
A1(M)	WETHERBY	ONGOING

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INTERCITY

سكيزا موديل







# Cheers for UN blue berets as guns of Gulf War fall silent

From Michael Hamlyn, Baghdad

The guns and rockets which have brought mass destruction to both sides of the Gulf War for eight years were silent last night as 140 men in the blue berets of the United Nations Iraq/Iraq Military Observer Group fanned out across thousands of square miles of desert and mountain to observe the start of the ceasefire.

"There is not much happening in any sector at present," said Colonel William Phillips, aged 56, the Irish Chief of UN Operations in Iraq. "The guns are already silent."

The men in the blue berets, unarmed and in groups of four, come from 24 nations though they all speak English to each other. "It's a Babel," said one of the UN officers, "but it has gone miraculously well, so far."

The ceasefire began officially at 4am London time today (03.00 GMT), but Colonel Phillips, a veteran of UN operations in the Congo, Cyprus and Lebanon, and his men regarded it as in operation from midnight local time last night (9pm London time). They were showered with sweets and flowers by a cheering throng of Iraqis, plainly overjoyed at the end of hostilities which the UN troops symbolized as they left for their posts.

Eight teams left for rubble-strewn Basra in the south where the most intense fighting has been, and where Iranian artillery has pounded the civilian population in return for the Iraqi battering of Khorramshahr and Abadan across the narrow Shatt-al-

Arab waterway. Four teams left for Bagdadi, in the central sector of the frontier, and four more for the rugged northern sector based in Kirkuk.

Their mission is to observe the ceasefire in operation, to cool tempers and to bring both sides together in case of clashes. Once the ceasefire holds, attention will move to Geneva, where UN-sponsored talks between the politicians of both sides begin next week. But part of the observer group's responsibility will be to ensure the withdrawal of each side from the other's territory to the internationally agreed frontier. They will also try to remove the long-range artillery from either side far enough back to prevent further damage.

Curiously, the difficulty may not be so much where the frontier has been most keenly contested, across the Shatt-al-Arab, since it does not much matter for the placement of troops whether the border runs down the middle of the waterway as one side claims, or along the low water-mark.

Much more difficult will be the controlled pull-back of forces from areas such as the Panjwin Salient, where the Iraqi First Corps has been battling to drive the Iranians back or further south around Halabja. The Iranians have withdrawn from the town itself under pressure of the gas warfare techniques of the Iraqis, but Western military observers report that they are still believed to be in the hills to the east. The Iraqis are reported to be unwilling to move into the evacuated town

itself because of the residual chemical pollution there.

There may also be problems in the southern sector where the border sweeps northwards from the disputed water boundary. Western observers point out that the Iraqi Third Corps crossed the frontier here after the Iranian leaders had accepted the UN ceasefire, and Resolution 598.

They attempted to cut the main supply line between the town of Ahwas and the Khorramshahr-Abadan complex, but were heavily defeated.

In the north, even though the UN observers report that all is peaceful along the frontier, diplomats insist that there are still heavy operations by the Iraqi armed forces against their own Kurdish rebels. These are taking place some distance away from the frontier area, and have recently been marked with more than usual ferocity. Villages have been razed, and populations forcibly transferred away from the area.

The 800,000 men of the Iraqi Army are unlikely to be stood down for some time. Diplomats suggest two reasons. First, the Iraqis basically do not trust the Iranian acceptance of Resolution 598. There is a strong belief here that the Ayatollahs have simply bought time, while they re-equip and re-group for further assaults.

Second, the return of so many unemployed young men to civilian life might have a disturbing effect on the stability of the regime of President Saddam Hussein.

FROM A VILLAGE IN THE HIMALAYAS

## Why irate mothers put the outsider to flight

By Victor Zorza and Venu Sandal

Within hours of her arrival in the village, the young woman knew she was on probation. One false move and she could be sent packing, as other strangers had been. The villagers had, astutely, let her have the hut next to the drummer who was also the community's watchman. He closely observed her comings and goings for several days.

He concluded that she was not an interfering busybody. Unlike most town people, Anjana — officially designated as a "health worker" — didn't turn up her nose at the dirt in which they all wallowed. Everybody relaxed. The women, distrustful at first, soon warmed to her, asked her what to do if their babies had colic or conjunctivitis, or just cried too much. Gradually, they came to trust her enough to do as she said — sometimes.

All seemed well until one cold winter day, when taking advantage of the new road linking the village to the district town, Anjana's superior arrived in a Jeep. He had come, the doctor told Anjana — caught unawares — to launch a new project designed to induce village women to take better care of their children. The idea was simple: one, two and three-year-olds would be weighed on the scales — the latest that modern technology could provide — which he had brought with him. The three children who weighed the most, and were the cleanest, would receive cash prizes.

The women, puzzled at first, were soon splitting their sides with laughter. What? Weigh children in kilos? Rice, wheat, potatoes — those you weigh. But children? Perhaps the doctor had been a shopkeeper once? Or did he want to set up a trade in children? "How much?" they finally asked Anjana, earnestly, "is he going to pay us per kilogramme of child?" "Seventy-five rupees for the first prize, 50 for the second, 30 for the third," Anjana tried to clarify.

Each woman, convinced that her child was the healthiest in the village, and would win the money, good-humouredly picked up her offspring and hurried towards the tin-roofed shelter under which the doctor had set up his equipment. He was appalled. The children, always barefoot, had feet encrusted with layers of dirt; many had dripping noses; several had dirty bottoms; most wore torn, filthy clothes. "Send them back," he told Anjana, "and explain to them again the importance of cleanliness. The prizes will go to children who are both healthy and clean."

The women left, peeved, and some didn't return, but the poorest did, with the children all scrubbed and neat; they were thinking of the money. Three hours passed before the last child had been weighed and inspected. The sun began to dip behind the high

mountains in the West. Many women were now resting. When the doctor, beaming, announced the prize-winners, there was a moment of tense silence. The winners stepped forward proudly with their children and accepted the cash. Then all hell broke loose.

"What about my baby? Who says he's not healthy?" "And mine?" "What about mine?" another woman snarled, closing in on the doctor. Confronted with a barrage of questions, he soon disappeared from Anjana's sight as a crowd of women pushed and jostled and shrieked abuse. "We know what happened," one of them yelled. "There was money for each of us, but you and Anjana have split it between yourselves. You can't fool us. Take that, and that..."



Afraid that her presence might stoke the inflamed tempers, Anjana quietly withdrew. The doctor, retrieving his weighing machine and papers, fled down the hill pursued by a horde of furious women, many with wailing babies in their arms.

We too joined the chase, trying to catch up with him; he had promised to talk to us about his project. "Wait, doctor, wait," we called out. But he jumped into the Jeep and raced off, churning up a cloud of dust.

We climbed back to our own hut and were preparing supper when we heard an altercation. All over the village squabbles were breaking out like little fires flaring up. Men were shouting at their wives; the women were answering back. The husbands, their day's work over, had come back hungry, but their food was not ready. What had the women been up to?

One by one the little fires went out. Now the men were laughing. "Just like women, to stand in line for three hours, for nothing..."

We walked to the temple square to hear the villagers talk about the day's events, but they fell silent just as we approached. Everybody was watching the lone figure of a woman trudging wearily up the path.

Anjana stopped, then climbed slowly towards her hut, a picture of dejection even in the grey light of dusk.

Six months' work gone to waste. She would have to start building bridges all over again.

© Victor Zorza & Venu Sandal, 1988

Next Saturday: Village fights brain drain

## Hostage's sister may have misread new Islamic Jihad terms

From Robert Fisk, Beirut

"I think it is grossly unjust for you to hold Terry Anderson for a ransom that includes what amounts to a complete peace settlement in the entire region and the end of centuries-old hostility." The words were in Arabic, printed in two of Beirut's most respected daily newspapers. But they came from Mrs Peggy Say, the sister of the longest-held American hostage in Lebanon — Terry Anderson, whose haggard, lined face appeared in yet another photograph issued by the Islamic Jihad movement on Thursday.

"In the past three-and-a-half years of Terry's captivity," Mrs Say bravely wrote in an open letter to her

brother's kidnappers, "I have tried my very best to pressure my Government to negotiate for Terry's release and the release of the other hostages... I beg that you deal with this issue in a more merciful manner. There is no reason for you to hold an innocent man who has already suffered three-and-a-half years of an unjust captivity."

What had so angered and frustrated Mrs Say was the threatening yet ambivalent statement that had come from Mr Anderson's kidnappers on Thursday, in which they dropped their specific demand for the release of 17 men imprisoned in Kuwait for bombing the United States and French Embassies there and instead asked for the with-

drawal of the Israeli Army from southern Lebanon and the release of Arab prisoners in "foreign" jails, in Israel and in the Khiam Prison controlled by Israel's proxy militia allies in southern Lebanon.

On the face of it, the statement was indeed uncompromising — which was how Mrs Say obviously understood it. She clearly read the words accurately, but she may have misread their message. The specific reference to Khiam suggests that Islamic Jihad are softening the terms of the conditions under which Mr Anderson might be released.

No one — least of all the kidnappers — really believes the Israelis will leave southern Lebanon at present. But the Khiam prisoners

have always been de facto "hostages" themselves, and could be freed. The sticking point in the past had always been Kuwait's refusal to free the 17. Now that specific demand has disappeared.

In Beirut, meanwhile, reports of the imminent release from captivity of Mr Terry Waite, the Archbishop of Canterbury's missing envoy, continue in the local press. The weekly magazine *Ash-Shiraa* claimed yesterday that separate negotiations were being carried out for the release of Western hostages here. The first involved Mr Waite and two other unnamed British hostages — presumably John McCarthy, the television journalist, and Mr Brian Keenan, the Belfast teacher — while

the second series of talks were said to concern the fate of the West German and American hostages.

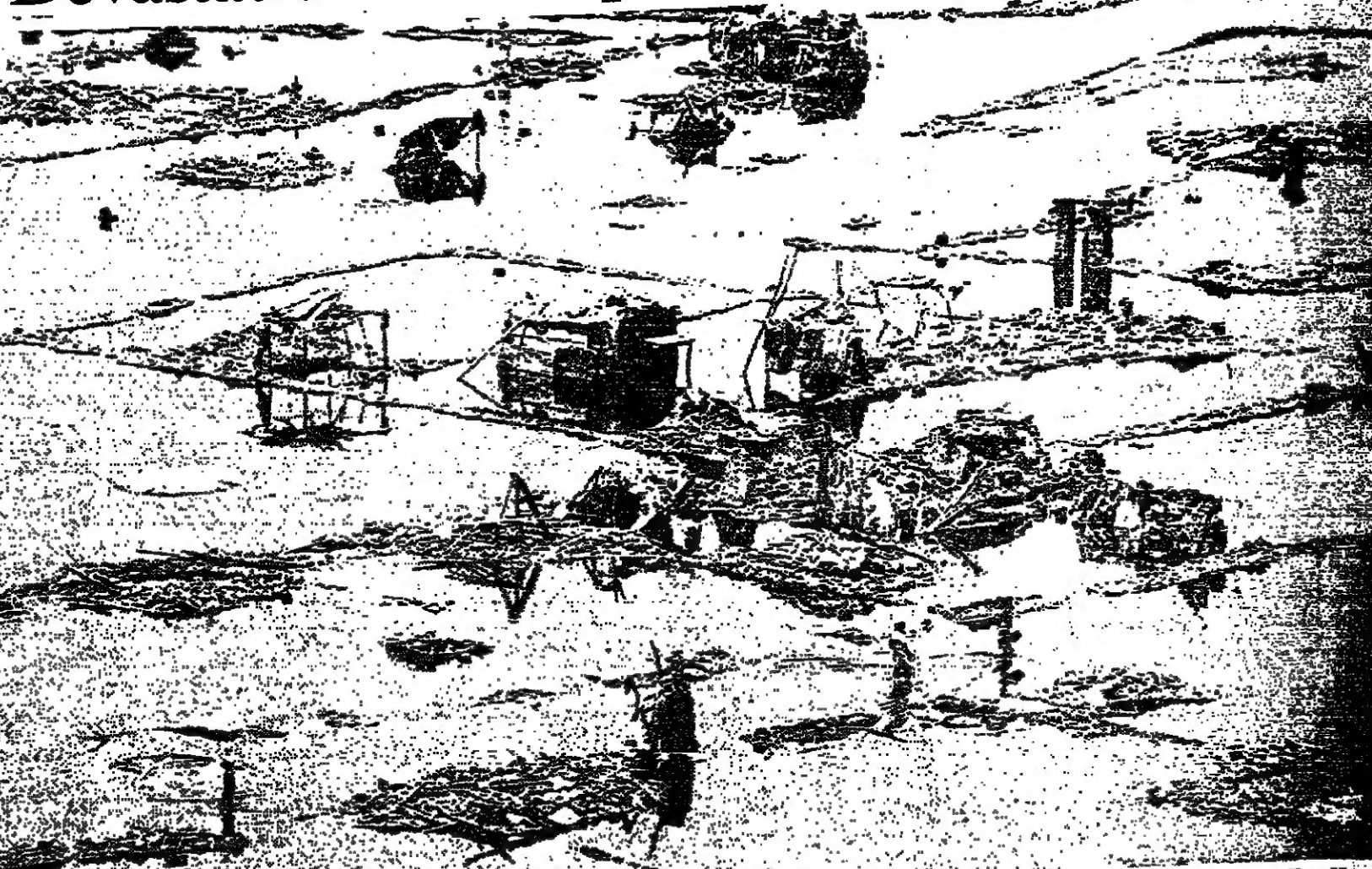
The British were likely to be freed sooner than the Americans, the magazine said.

*Ash-Shiraa* said that freedom for the British was "imminent" but that the release of US hostages "needs more time". The price of freedom for all of them, the magazine concluded, fell into two categories: a large amount of money to be paid to the kidnappers and "economic, military and political conditions set by Iran".



Mr Anderson: Strain shows in the latest photograph.

## Devastation and despair for Sudan's homeless



With Nile waters lapping around the ruins of their homes, Khartoum inhabitants wait to see if yesterday's rainfall will cause more flooding.

## Tip tribes fight to secure a share of aid

From Catherine Bennett, Khartoum

Hilal Kasha, literally the "place of rubbish", is a flat expanse of land north of Khartoum which once was merely a dumping ground for chemical wastes from local factories and tons of domestic garbage. Later, it has also accepted Sudan's human refuse — people from the south, fleeing the five-year civil war.

Southerners were arriving in the capital at the rate of 3,000 a month in the weeks before the rains, joining the estimated 1.5 million displaced persons already living in shanty towns on the outskirts of the city.

When the storms came, their mud or sacking huts were the first to be washed away. Places such as Hilal Kasha, with no political representation and acres of contaminated water cutting them off, have also been some of the last to receive help.

The Save the Children Fund tried to reach the camp but lost a Land-Rover in the brown floodwaters separating Kasha from the factories. A group from the Sudanese Council of Churches finally arrived to distribute food registration cards, and found the villagers angry. Dr Priscilla Joseph, of

the council, believes that the Sudanese Government is neglecting the displaced people. She said: "The people were furious at first. Nobody had been to see them. They didn't have drinking water."

They had had to walk more than a mile through thigh-deep water to get it and were apprehensive.

"They didn't know what was going to happen because nobody was looking after them," she said. Yesterday, when Save the Children Fund workers arrived by lorry and waded towards the huts — construction of sticks and sackings housing some 2,000 people — they found a cynical reaction. A Dinka chief, carrying a dirty briefcase and registration cards, said he expected that they had brought nothing either.

In fact, a lorryload of plastic sheeting, given by the US, was parked out of sight, waiting until the officials could organize a distribution system to avoid fighting between householders and tribespeople.

Mr Terry Lewis, a relief co-ordinator for the fund, said: "When people become displaced in small groups like this, they have leadership

problems because they have not got their families and their village infrastructure." His policy was to distribute to the most important members of the settlement.

Eventually four "elders" were produced from four different southern tribes and led towards the lorry. "I'll give you the sheeting if you can control the people," Mr Lewis told them — and for 20 minutes

Oxfam and the Office of the United Nations Disaster Relief Co-ordinator yesterday reported extensive flooding in rural areas of Sudan. The UN group said the area around Dongola, a northern Nile town, was cut off and that the other Nile towns of Berber and Shendi were affected. "Unprecedented flows" on the Atbara river, south-east of Khartoum, had flooded the entire river basin.

The boxes of sheeting were piled up and instructions given for cutting them into strips.

Then another Dinka man arrived. He explained that, because his tribe was different, this man would give him nothing. Then another Dinka

claimed rights to his own supply of sheeting for eight families.

A crowd of around 200 pushed around the lorry, waving cards which did not entitle them to anything. As the truck emptied, they became more frantic, wrestling boxes from the truck and fending off wealthier inhabitants who had waded from houses 500 yards away.

Fights started in a ditch as one group dragged sheeting from a box and others began tugs-of-war in the shallows. Mr John Patel, the fund's director in Khartoum, ordered the lorry to go. "I think that was about 70 per cent successful," he said.

Higher up the rubbish dump is the home of an estimated 8,000 displaced people. There have been visits from the churches' council and some distribution of aid, but the settlement is still characterized by black puddles and broken glass amid the mud foundations of what had been houses. Some of the displaced people are building a church, others houses in which they will live long after the flood water has dried up.

"This disaster has high-

lighted the plight of the displaced," Mr Patel said. "It's an opportunity for donors and governments to take stock of the humanitarian and general needs of the displaced and more vulnerable."

At Oxfam, Mr Anthony Nedley, relief co-ordinator for Sudan, emphasized that the disaster should be seen as only one of three or four acute problems facing the country.

When the Khartoum flood has dried up, and the roads and railways have recovered, the procession of displaced people is expected to resume its journey to the capital.

There are locusts moving to Sudan from the west, further flooding west of Khartoum, and after-effects of drought requiring food aid in the Red Sea hills. Mr Nedley said: "There is a disaster here about every three months."

The centre of Khartoum had been drying up before the rains started again yesterday, and the Nile is still said to be rising. There are no plans to cope with a flood other than radio announcements. One aid worker said: "Everybody's just hoping it will stay away. It's said but true. We'll just have to wait and see."

## Divided Korea

## Gulf between extended hands

From Gavin Bell, Panmunjom

Korean peace talks have resumed, after a three-year hiatus, with an amusing incident bordering on farce which may portend a fruitless dialogue.

The mood was relaxed and cordial as 10 delegates from North and South Korea filed into a conference building in the northern sector of the Demilitarized Zone yesterday.

With one accord, their respective leaders rose from their seats and extended their hands for a historic gesture of friendship — then found to their dismay that the table between them was too wide.

Thus Mr Chon Kum Chol, of the North Korean Supreme People's Assembly, and Mr Park Joon Kyu, of the South Korean National Assembly, were photographed for posterity with their outstretched hands separated by a yard of empty space. The symbolism was painfully evident, and was reflected in the deliberations that followed. Nothing was resolved in three hours' intensive discussions, and the meeting was adjourned until today.

The main stumbling blocks were conflicting proposals for a non-aggression pact and for an enlarged conference to formulate it and debate other issues such as the Seoul Olympics.

The North appears to have dropped its demand that US forces must withdraw from South Korea before any peace accord can be reached, but it still insists that a parallel or

agreed future pull-out is essential. The South, deeply suspicious of its neighbour's motives, rejects such conditions. It also maintains that any pact must be decided at government rather than parliamentary level.

The two sides agreed in principle to hold a bigger conference in Pyongyang, the

North Korean capital, next week, but differed sharply on what form it should take.

The North proposed a joint plenary session of the two parliaments, together with 100 representatives of other political and social groups and 40 aides. South Korea argued that such a 1,094-strong assembly would be unwieldy and incapable of reaching agreements. It suggested 20 delegates and a 40-member support staff on either side.

Behind the mathematical dispute, there are more profound political concerns. The South suspects a manoeuvre to exclude its Government (which Pyongyang Radio denounces as a "puppet regime"), to exploit divisions in its newly democratic society, and to stage a meaningless propaganda exercise.

Seoul's chief delegate reiterated this view later. "Their strategy is to avoid dealing with our Government, and to get something from our Parliament for propaganda purposes. They do not accept reality."

The North refused to be drawn on its Olympic boycott, and Mr Park concluded that there was only one chance in a thousand of its taking part. Nor was there any response to the recent proposal from President Roh Tae Woo of South Korea for summit talks with Mr Kim Il Sung, his northern counterpart.

Mr Park, asked about prospects of the enlarged meeting taking place, said: "It's a matter of hope and prayer. It's fifty-fifty." He was noticeably less sanguine than he had been at a pre-conference briefing, when he said: "It's not like the old days. We are expecting a little glasnost and perestroika from North Korea."

Despite the lack of progress, there was a perceptible thaw in relations during the meeting in the aptly-named Tongil Oak (Unification Pavilion), within sight of the watchtowers and armed guards of the military demarcation line.

In sharp contrast with the vitriolic exchanges of armistice commission meetings, the conduct of the parliamentarians was both restrained and civilized. Reporters had a remarkable opportunity to witness the new approach through a large window overlooking the conference room. Loudspeakers relayed the discussions.

The meeting began on a

positive note, with both sides expressing a desire to reduce the tensions. Mr Park raised the prospect of exchanging trade missions and visits by politicians, artists and athletes to "terminate the mutual distrust and confrontation which has characterized our relationship". The spirit of fraternity extended to adjacent rooms, where officials and journalists from both sides mingled freely.

Lieutenant-Colonel Yun Ki Eun, of the (North) Korean People's Army, presented a moderate view in a conversation with *The Times*.

He said: "Realistically, we must accept that the North and South have different pol-

itical and social systems, and if one tries to impose its will on the other it can easily lead to war. That's why we think we should aim for a Swiss-style federal system."

His fellow officer, Colonel Lee Chan Bok, agreed: "We have to take out the daggers hidden in our bosoms and shake hands."

The consensus was that, while nothing substantive was achieved, the resumption of a dialogue was itself encouraging. Perhaps Mr Chon and Mr Park will improve its chances of success today by shaking hands before sitting down.

## Death toll in Afghan rocket raid put at 800

Islamabad (AFP) — Between 600 and 800 people died in the rocket attack last week by Afghan rebels on a Soviet-Afghan base in which huge stocks of munitions and fuel exploded, diplomatic sources said here.

The attack at Kelagay led to a fire and explosions and was the most deadly military operation since the Soviet Army intervened in Afghanistan in December 1979, they said.

The attack was reported on Wednesday, when diplomats in Kabul quoting a Soviet source said that almost 1,000 Soviet personnel and their families lived at the base and casualties would be high.

## Charges after rail tragedy

Moscow (Reuters) — Criminal charges have been made after a Moscow-bound express train crashed on Tuesday killing 28 people and injuring more than 100.

Tass said that speed limit warnings in the area were not passed on by a foreman.

## Terror blasts

Madrid — Terrorist bombs wounded six people in separate bomb attacks at El Bar, near San Sebastian, and near Bilbao.

## Police killed

Delhi (AFP) — Sikh militants shot dead two senior police officers in the northern Indian state of Punjab.

## More refugees

Geneva (AFP) — The number of Somali and Sudanese refugees in Ethiopia has increased to 540,000 and is still rising, a UN spokesman said here.

## Briton dies

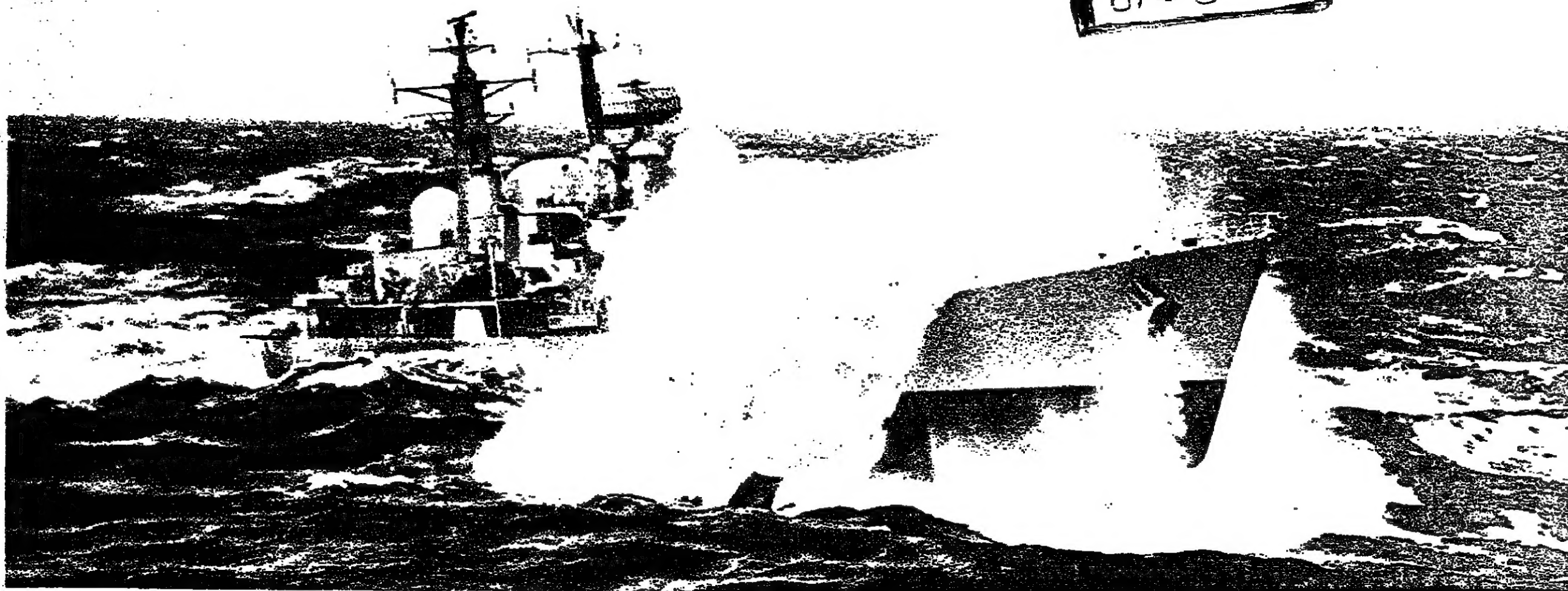
Bethune, France (AFP) — James Richardson, aged 39, a Briton imprisoned here for using and dealing in illegal drugs has been found dead in his cell.

## Drug sentence

Brisbane (AFP) — A Hong Kong woman aged 33 was jailed for 14 years here for trying to smuggle £4.7 million of heroin into Australia.



هكذا من العجول



As Officer of the Watch, you 'have the ship.' Up there on the bridge you will also have any number of problems.

Sea state 5, getting worse; visibility closing in fast. Air, surface, subsurface threat warnings all red.

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# TIMES DIARY

SIMON BARNES

With summer after summer of remorseless excellence, it has at last come to pass: a member of my own cricket team, the mighty Tewin Irregulars, has finally won international honours. Let us salute Richard Cunningham, who played for us on a single occasion a few seasons back and, in the great Tewin Irregulars tradition, once played against us for the British Council. He has just become a full international cricketer by playing for Czechoslovakia against Poland.

The match took place in Warsaw, and Poland won by five wickets after bowling Czechoslovakia out for 52 (Cunningham 4). But then the Czech star player, an American, was refused a visa: ah, sport is a cruel business when you reach international level. The Czech side comprised mainly embassy Brits and Indians, and they play most of their non-international games on a very dodgy wicket in the middle of a rugby field. Already there are plans next year for a Warsaw Pact Cricket tournament. All who have played for the mighty Irregulars will be cheering Czechoslovakia on.

Meanwhile, I bring you more hot news from the Darts League world of under-11 cricket. Chris Johnstone, who manages Hampstead Cricket Club's under-11s, reports his side's defeat of Mill Hill, who were dismissed for 3. The best bit about this is that it contains the world's most enviable bowling statistics: J. Brough: 0.3 overs, three wickets, no runs. Of course, a dismissal for a towering three runs is nothing compared to the ultimate dismissal for nought, as reported a couple of weeks ago, when I wrote about a match some years back between Mowden School 2nd XI and Cottesmore. Roger Washburn writes to say: "I was a member of that Mowden team. Little did we know we were making history. I believe we did have the chance to score a leg-bye, but the non-striker was too petrified to run. I don't suppose it's feasible to stage a re-match?" Who can say? If there are any other survivors from that strange occasion who find the idea intriguing, I will be happy to put them in touch with Mr Washburn.

I always feel a little guilty laughing at the Colemanballs section of *Private Eye*. I mean, print is so much safer broadcasting in a medium that makes the risible gaffe inevitable. But as the fourth Colemanballs book leaps forth, I find myself full of malicious laughter once again. "Zola Budd is so small, so waif-like, you literally can't see her. But there she is." Or to quote Samantha Fox: "I've got ten pairs of training shoes, one for every day of the week." Or again: "The film is like *King Lear* re-written by the author of *Henry V*." The book even has a league table for the top contributors: David Coleman 59, Murray Walker 43, Simon Barnes and Ted Lowe 28 each, and Ron Pickering 25.

The popular image of the reporter is not one of finely tuned athleticism and Spartan abstinence. But all the same, the Seoul Olympic Organizing Committee has asked 30 Seoul-based foreign correspondents to take part in the relay that will bring the Olympic torch to South Korea. Each will be required to complete a kilometre, in the not unduly taxing time of six minutes. It is thought to be the first time



journalists have been asked to help relay the torch. "The essential thing in life is not conquering, but fighting well", as Baron de Coubertin said.

Every big sporting event requires a story about an enormous athlete who can leap to the standard he's set for himself. But not the Olympics. The Seoul committee have acquired several thousand football-like extensions to make the Olympic giants rest easy.

Netball hooliganism is not yet one of this nation's major sporting problems. Africa, however, is reeling under the shock of the ghastly behaviour of the netball team Bora, from Dar es Salaam. Bora have been suspended indefinitely from the seven-nation East, Central and Southern African Netball Confederation after "gross indiscipline" at a tournament in Zanzibar in June. The team committed a string of offences, including the use of abusive language, pouring water on the new champions, Posta of Kenya, refusing gifts from the Kenyan referee, and trying to beat up the Malawian referee. The suspension comes less than a week after the Tanzanian Netball Association banned Bora for five years for similarly appalling behaviour after they had lost their national title to National Youth Service of Mtwara. Netball is a tough, tough business.

Where are they now? Aberdeen, Ashington, Bootle, Glossop, Nelson... yes, the clubs booted out of the Football League. The answer lies in a book called *Rejected FC*, the first volume of which has just been published, to be followed by a second and final volume in the spring. Surely no certifiably insane football club can be without it: the publisher is Dave Twydel of 12, The Furrows, Harefield, Middlesex, UB9 6AT.

The author has also given the world *Defunct FC*, which traces the history of five non-league clubs that are no longer with us. I rather suspect that Mr Twydel is a remarkable man.

The confusion surrounding the Notting Hill Carnival, the annual August bank holiday event, shows the dramatic change in race relations in Britain over the last decade. It is a change very much for the better.

The old arguments voiced for years after the first Notting Hill race riot of 1958 (Britain's first) were all dressed up in the rhetoric of black versus white. The whites, in the shape of the police, were trying to put down a natural West Indian festivity: control of the carnival was, so the clichés went, inevitably racist. That has all changed.

Today's rows, as befits Mrs Thatcher's Britain, are about the competence and the efficiency of the carnival organization. The damning evidence about the safety and the structure of the carnival has come not from the "white" police but from that business-like firm of accountants, Coopers & Lybrand. Their recent report shows inadequacies in the carnival's management. No racism here, but more telling allegations of incompetence.

Since its small beginnings in 1959 the Notting Hill Carnival

Dudley Fishburn points the way to a safer, profitable carnival

## Notting Hill Incorporated

has grown into Europe's largest street event, attracting up to 1.5 million people over its three days of festivities. It is a focal point for Britain's black community, while being truly multi-racial in the very best (i.e., least bossy or do-gooding) sense. It has strong links with the Catholic faith and, therefore, London's large Spanish, Portuguese and Filipino communities.

Yet the organization behind the event is woefully inadequate and the opportunity that it presents to inject wealth and life into North Kensington, one of London's least advantaged pockets, is being lost. If the 1.5 million visitors could be relieved of just £2 a head (and imagine what Brighton or Blackpool would lure away from anyone attending such a festivity) it would create a £3 million

opportunity — for black employment, for better and safer organization, for North Kensington pride.

The wealth-creating opportunities of the carnival are spurned both by those who say "ban it" and those who, through incompetence or prejudice, fail to develop it professionally. The would-be banners are wrong for two reasons: first, it is a cal-de-sac, killjoy argument: once stated, no further contribution can be made. Second, events of this kind can be "banned" by one person only: the Home Secretary on the advice of the Commissioner of the Metropolitan Police. Even such a ban would probably be untenable on legal grounds, and would certainly be of little help in stopping a spontaneous carnival.

No more constructive is the

attitude of those organizers who have failed even to register the carnival as a charity (nothing more damning than this) and will not appoint a full-time chief executive and professional black team. The organizers now find themselves in the position, only days before the carnival begins, of being unable to fulfil sensible obligations given to the police months ago.

The West Indian community feels deceived. The participants, who practise throughout the year, are angry. They know that a smooth-running, black-led, money-spinning and safe event is a practical possibility.

All the publicity about the carnival in the past weeks has been about possible crime and disorder, when it should have been about the best bands, the biggest contracts, and the rival

bidding of television companies to cover the event. Take a lesson from Band Aid or the Nelson Mandela concert — and from the spirit of entrepreneurialism so alive in much of London's black community.

Every year thousands of British blacks are graduating from secondary schools, polytechnics and universities to find good jobs. Their traditions are, quite understandably, partly West Indian and wholly British (a mix that is doubly to be celebrated). When they look at the Notting Hill Carnival they look for both traditions: colourful revelry and efficient organization. Because the latter is not there, the former is in jeopardy: the carnival is unsafe, and understandably resented by those many people whose homes lie along the route. The remedy lies not with the

Race Relations Board or the police. It lies in recognizing the generation change as West Indian immigrants become British blacks. London's many articulate middle-class blacks are calling for a carnival that works and for an organization which (like the Edinburgh Festival and the Lord Mayor's Show) has a year-round professional management. Such a management could then make the necessary arrangements with the police, Kensington Council, local residents and the carnival's many friends, and make them stick.

More importantly, perhaps, it would reflect the interests of the emerging, unsung, majority in Britain's black community for whom the issues of the economy, education and street safety are more important than the sterile arguments about race and immigration. This black middle class is still far too small, still lags woefully behind its white equivalent in most statistics, still needs all the help this government can give it, but it is there, and growing, and at Notting Hill, making its voice heard. The author is Conservative MP for Kensington.

Conor Cruise O'Brien

## Trouble of Bush's making

New Orleans

On Tuesday George Bush took his first major decision as the new Republican leader. By Wednesday it was beginning to look like a bad decision. It still does.

The decision was the nomination of Danny Quayle as his vice-presidential running mate. From the moment of his first encounter with the media on Wednesday, Quayle was in trouble. Although the trouble was entirely predictable, neither Bush nor Quayle appears to have foreseen it.

Quayle was asked why he had chosen to do his national service in Indiana in the National Guard — the equivalent of Britain's Territorial Army — while the Vietnam war was on. Why didn't he go to Vietnam? Quayle called these questions "a cheap shot" and failed to answer.

Republicans, naturally, have been trying to shrug off the Quayle-and-Vietnam issue, but it mushroomed and was dominating media discussion of the election on what should have been the triumphant last day of the Republican campaign.

The issue is acutely embarrassing to the Republicans because of the super-patriotic rhetoric and flag-waving which has prevailed throughout the Republican convention. For the party of the super-patriots, Quayle looks a rather unconvincing standard-bearer.

The Quayle case reminds the electorate of a feature of the Vietnam war which is not in the interests of the Republican Party to have recalled: the fact that many children of rich and well-connected families were able to avoid going to Vietnam by enrolling in the National Guard. As a result, most of the men who actually fought the war were the less affluent, with a high proportion of blacks.

Many of the people whose rhetoric fuelled the war were able to avoid its consequences for their own children. And many Americans are annoyed all over again through the Republican party's choice of its vice-presidential candidate.

What some media commentators have been calling "the Quayle scandal" raises damaging questions about the competence and judgement of the presidential candidate who chose this

running-mate. On Thursday night both Bush and Quayle avoided the topic that was the centre of discussion in the media and among the general public.

Both made skilful, strongly delivered, Republican speeches which were received with ritual demonstrations of enthusiasm in the New Orleans Superdome. But the topic that was avoided will not go away. The delegates dutifully cheered and waved their banners, but when they were not busy waving and cheering, many of them looked a bit sick.

Republicans appear to be divided between those who wish Quayle would retire from the ticket, those who feel the party is stuck with him and had better make the best of it, and those who don't know but feel there are questions to be answered. The last group is probably the majority. And of course it is the feeling about questions to be answered that will keep the issue alive in the media and among the public.

Outside the Republican fold I don't think there are many people who are in much doubt about what happened. People of the relevant generation don't have to have it explained to them what it meant to get into the National Guard, instead of having to go to Vietnam, 19 years ago. And the then managing editor of the *Indianapolis Star* — the Quayle family newspaper — has acknowledged that he pulled every string he could to get young Quayle into the National Guard.

The most piercing observation I have heard on the political significance of the Quayle factor was made on television on Thursday night by Patrick Buchanan, President Reagan's former communications director and, consequently, no Republican-basher.

Buchanan talked about the "Reagan Democrats" — the people whose defection from the Bush ticket in November would put Michael Dukakis in the White House. As Buchanan put it, without any moralizing, many such people — lower middle-class and working-class — would have liked to do for their boy just what the Quayle family apparently was able to do for their Danny.



They too would have liked to get their boy into the National Guard, and save him from Vietnam. But they simply didn't have the necessary social, political and financial influence that families like the Quayles do have. So those boys had to go to Vietnam. And as Buchanan put it, many of them "came back in body-bags".

One survivor, who was interviewed on television on Thursday night, lost both his legs in Vietnam. He spoke with dignity

and restraint. But he isn't about to vote for the Republican ticket. Americans are little inclined to class resentment, less so than many Britons are. America is the land of opportunity, words are not just empty rhetoric. People don't dislike other people just because they are rich.

As it happens, all four candidates in this year's presidential contest are rich men. That in itself is not resented. But if some of the rich are seen to be assuming blatantly that their

wealth gives them a privileged position, especially in matters of life and death, that is another matter.

If the Republicans had deliberately chosen to get across to the less affluent the message that they are the party of old inherent privilege, they could not have got that message across more effectively than by the choice of Bush and now, especially, of Danny Quayle.

Quayle has said he regarded the Vietnam war as "a holy

cause" and that he "loves and admires those who fought in it". The relatives of those who actually did go to Vietnam because they didn't have the means to avoid going there are unlikely to be impressed.

The Quayle issue continued to get saturation coverage in Friday morning's press. A typical headline is that of the *New Orleans Times-Picayune*: Quayle flap tarnishes G.O.P. big night.

Quayle has promised to give the awaited answers to media questions when he campaigns with Bush this weekend. That will keep the issue going strong into next week. Probably the worst aspect of the affair, from a Republican point of view, is that it gives rise to jokes, and that the jokes are likely to cling to the ticket.

Commentators are wondering how George Bush could possibly have failed to see the consequences of his choice, in terms of media and popular reaction. But now that he has emerged from the shadow of Ronald Reagan, Bush gives the impression of not being capable of conceiving what people might be thinking outside the restricted circles in which he habitually moves.

Ronald Reagan instinctively reached out to those "Reagan Democrats" and won with their support. Bush and other Republicans who take their cue from him acted throughout the convention as if the Republican constituency, by itself, is sufficient to secure victory for the Republican ticket. That could be a dangerous state of mind.

Now the campaign is moving into its final phase, Bush's advisers will no doubt be reminding him of the need to get through to those "Reagan Democrats", but such an effort might lead to more mistakes. The harder Bush tries, when he talks to ethnic minority voters on the campaign trail, the more patronizing and the more inept he sounds. And the running mate he has chosen will be of absolutely no help to him in the places where he most needs help. I thought that Michael Dukakis sounded pretty confident on Thursday while campaigning in Miami. He didn't mention Quayle and Vietnam. He doesn't have to.

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Commentary • PETER BRIMELOW

## This other America

Sedona, Arizona. The place to be for smart journalists this week was of course New Orleans, where a great horde were entertaining one another at their employers' expense, and a considerably smaller number of Republicans were nominating George Bush. Meanwhile, below stairs and in places very far from New Orleans, those of us in financial journalism were continuing our humble rounds and common tasks. We console ourselves that we get the better insight into America.

Either in quest of the arcane fairs that constitute my professional prey or because some group has asked to hear my English-accented views, I find myself making frequent forays into the great American heartland. It's a salutary reminder that, although New York is the financial and communications centre of America, it is profoundly atypical. As Chicago novelist Saul Bellow has put it, New York is the capital of a country that does not exist.

You remember, for example, how extraordinarily vast America's west of Manhattan actually is. This week it took me four hours to fly to Phoenix, Arizona, and another three to drive up to the mountain resort of Sedona. There are about 100 cities in America with around half a million people, the size of Liverpool or Bristol. Many, unlike the asteroid belt of urban Britain, are proud independent planets,

far from their nearest rivals and each with its own hinterland where the archetypal drama of metropolitan versus provincial is endlessly replayed. Quite a few have direct international air links — the flight to London leaving as I arrived in Phoenix — and New York and Washington are just irritating abstractions.

It's common to say that the 20th century has homogenized all cities. It is certainly true that travelling in America, from reservation to rental car, is a fluent universal language. But the distinctions are really just more subtle. After all, our truly-told ancestors probably thought thatched huts lacked the uniqueness of a nice customized cave. Public conveniences are alike in principle, but they notoriously differ between America, Britain and France. In American airports, close examination of the bookstores reveals several small presses devoted to the celebration of the inimitable local character in areas you thought were just blanks on the map.

My rental car experience illustrates the predictability and peculiarities of modernity. Invariably, I'm informed at the counter that, despite booking ahead, I will have to take a huge gas-guzzling boat. If my wife is standing demurely by my side, she flies at the rental agent like an unhooded falcon and after a savage flurry of wings and talons we get an elegant sports model or some other concession. If I'm alone, I accept the boat with a deferential British murmur.

But then, although all automobiles also are alike in principle, there's always some gadget that cannot be decoded. This time, neither I nor the Avis attendants could adjust the back of the driving seat. I sailed off into the perfumed desert evening in the recumbent posture of a guest at a Roman feast.

At this point, it is obvious why Americans have always preferred big cars. The roads were magnificent, but I was dwarfed by the scenery and the great starry sky. If you feel you're on an ocean, it's comforting to be in a ship.

I reached Sedona in the dark. Next morning I emerged blinking from my motel room into the brilliant sunlight to find at least one parallel to Manhattan — the red sandstone buttes soaring vertically up for hundreds of feet on every side.

My host, an energetic septuagenarian called Robert B. Egbert, is an example of a once-common American type: a farm boy who grew up milking the cows before school and ultimately reached the top of corporate America — in Egbert's case, as an economist for Ford and RCA. Twelve years ago he and his wife uprooted themselves, as so many Americans do when they retire, and moved across the continent to this idyllic but totally new community.

In retirement Egbert invented a better mousetrap — one made possible by America's superb communications and the per-

sonal computer. He publishes *Blue Chip Economic Indicators*, a newsletter that reports the forecasts of economists around the country and calculates a consensus estimate. Over the years, in a process rather similar to the determination of odds at the race track by punter sentiment, this consensus has displayed significant accuracy, attracting national and international attention both for its own sake and as a measure of the American mood.

The *Blue Chip* consensus currently is that the US gross national product will grow by a strong 3.8 per cent in 1988 and 2.3 per cent in 1989. Egbert personally doesn't expect a recession to begin until the end of 1989, and he says it will be short.

We broke after a day-long interview. I piloted my boat up the nearby Oak Creek Canyon to the edge of the plateau and gazed out at the vast view.

There are perceptions beyond politics. An adviser to Yasuhiro Nakasone, the former Japanese prime minister, put it well recently, arguing that the gap between his country and America will begin widening again as the latter's natural advantages, its resourcefulness and the suppleness of its society reassert themselves.

"The twentieth century was the American century," he said. "The twenty-first century will be the American century." The author is a senior editor of *Forbes Magazine*.

AUGUST 20 ON THIS DAY 1931

### KANCHENJUNGA

This was Paul Bauer's second unsuccessful assault on the third highest mountain (28,189ft); the first was in 1929. It remained unconquered until 1955 when a British expedition stopped a few yards from the summit in deference to the religious beliefs of the Sikimese.

### CLIMBERS' FALL IN COULOIR

By Herr Paul Bauer  
Kanchenjunga Base Camp, via Gangtok, Aug 14

Our Kanchenjunga expedition has been struck by a terrible disaster. On the 9th the larger party was on its way to pick Camp VIII. At 5pm it had attained the place where two years ago a temporary camp, called Little Camp, had been established on a ridge both sides of which fell with terrific steepness. This year the route for 120 feet was along the flank and then for a rope's length through an ice couloir. After that one stood on a wide rib leading in a few minutes rather easily to the terrace of Camp VIII. Hartmann and Wein passed the spot, which was by no means too difficult for skilled mountaineers.

Schaller was just about to ascend the steep couloir. I watched him from near by, as my rope team — Fischer and myself — and a porter — were to follow at once. Quietly and surely Schaller cleared the steps formerly cut by Pasang, that second man on his rope, elderly and pliable, followed him at a few metres

distance, and the third man, Tenzin Nurbu, stood on a rock boulder at the beginning of the couloir and managed the rope. Suddenly Pasang's body shot downwards, followed immediately by Schaller, who in a high curve shot over him through the air. Snow filled the couloir. For a fraction of a second I hoped the rope might break the fall, though at once I was aware that no rope could stop this double fall. The bodies flew down the terrific, steep couloir.

The porter on my rope team screamed with horror, and looked like throwing himself down the above. We all felt uneasy and wished to follow them. Duffed with terror, we realized the extent of the disaster. With the rope we fixed our porter to a rock and relieved the third man of Schaller's party.

We then proceeded to Camp VIII where we called Hartmann and Wein back, and the whole party descended to search for our poor friends. Six in all, we passed the night on an ice ledge a metre wide on the range of the couloir. During the next few days most of us spent in the ice highest basin of the Zewu glacier, and early on the morning of the 11th we found the bodies of both Schaller and Pasang at the base of the couloir. It was evident that they had been killed at once. The couloir breaks sheer for several hundred metres. During the following few days we brought the dead down through the soft snow, to an island of rock emerging from a sea of ice surrounded by an inconceivable mountain amphitheatre.

There we buried them today. We did not try to hide our tears, and with all our losses we strove to keep a tomb worthy of the man who gave their lives for a great cause.

كندا في 1931





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## PERIL AND POSSIBILITY

Some anniversaries are celebrated openly and in joy; some in fearful stealth; a few in a spirit of determination to think and change. Among those few should be the 20th anniversary of the Soviet invasion of Czechoslovakia, and the lessons which it brings must be for West as well as East if a better Europe is to be assured for birthdays to come.

Mr Gorbachov knows that one of the biggest threats to him is an opportunistic resurgence immediately behind the iron curtain. Suppression would cost him his reform movement and the Western money to pay for it; non-suppression would cause a chain reaction and cost his empire.

For Western leaders neither scenario is ideal. Another Soviet invasion like that of Czechoslovakia would ruin the domestic reforms which alone have some prospect of turning the USSR into a civilized world neighbour. It would also be a mere postponement. The long-suppressed irredentists and nationalists of Eastern Europe would be only more likely, when they did shake off the Soviet yoke, to do so more violently and with a greater threat to the peace of nations.

If, on the other hand, as many in the West would wish, an Eastern European uprising were allowed by Mr Gorbachov and repeated elsewhere, the current impoverished state of those satellites would make the pre-1914 Balkans seem a haven of stability. It would be bloody chaos as states without nationhood and nations without states battled over the plains. With weakened traditional religion, no new supra-national ideal such as that of European unity, insufficient faith and knowledge in the working of market economics, there would be little hope.

So both sides should have an interest in ensuring that the satellites do not go as far as to attract the invading forces of the USSR. But imaginative moves have to be considered now if this is to be achieved. These may include future new European security arrangements, Marshall Aid plans of various sorts to pay for the decolonization of the European sections of the Soviet empire. There will be prices to pay, of which the most important, eternal vigilance, is only one. But the price of not paying could be much higher.

The reform of communism in Czechoslovakia 20 years ago was the first attempt by a ruling communist party to pit a fully rethought model of communism against the paleo-communism of Moscow. It was, as the reformers saw it, an attempt to rescue Marx's thought from the fanaticism of Lenin and the relics of deposed Russian autocracy. Their

purpose was to create a freer, more humane, more prosperous, more dignified, and a fully European "socialism" with a clear relevance, as Marx had intended, to the needs and culture of advanced Western societies.

Surprisingly for communists who had seen the inside of Stalin's prisons, the reformers thought they were acting in the interests of Moscow, too. Surely the Soviet comrades would recognize that the Stalinist way violated the humanitarian essence of Marxism and there was a need for new beginnings.

But the Kremlin under Leonid Brezhnev was not accessible to exalted considerations of that kind. It declared Prague to be a cancer inside communism, and excised it as Khrushchev had excised Hungary 12 years earlier. Even the prospect of a reformed Soviet communism had to wait until the arrival of Mikhail Gorbachov.

It would now be clearly in the spirit of the Gorbachov Reformation, and in the interests of the reforming Soviet State, to allow the East and central European client states to go their own ways within or outside the framework of "socialism". The message underlying the Hungarian reform movement demands no less. So does civil society in Poland.

Gorbachov's repudiation of the Brezhnev doctrine is ambiguous. But if Eastern Europe could, by skill and luck, be turned into a series of independent states like Austria, the area would be greatly more reliable than with its present assembly of recalcitrant allies. It would also offer the world a memorable example of Soviet self-confidence and persuasive evidence that communist expansionism had come to an end.

If Mr Gorbachov wishes to turn his thoughts in that direction he should not, however, wait for fresh unrest to raise its head on the Danube or the Vistula. Peaceful Soviet disengagement while popular good will in Eastern Europe lasts would be the wisest way out as well as an act of remarkable statesmanship.

The Soviet leadership has begun to think and act afresh in Afghanistan, Cambodia and Angola. The withdrawal of troops and influence in other parts of the empire should follow, leaving Nato with the far from easy task of working out its best response.

The West was unprepared and inactive 20 years ago. Now that Moscow itself is in the throes of reform and wants our help the need for new thinking on Eastern Europe is much clearer. Imaginative consideration of the possibilities and perils should not be postponed beyond this anniversary year.

## ANOTHER 'BUT' FOR BUSH

Envy the politician whose problems fall from his back like the proverbial water off a duck. Pity the one to whom the jokes stick. Mr George Bush began the week — in his opponents' words — as the man born with a silver foot in his mouth. He ended it as the man who may have shot himself in it.

It should have been a week of personal triumph. His choice for his own vice-presidential office now threatens him with disaster. And, as he reflects on the Republican Convention in New Orleans, there is no one to blame but himself.

Mr Bush made a good acceptance speech on Thursday. Never likely to inflame political passions with his rhetoric, he was wise not to try to do so. He properly defended his record as the junior partner in a winning team. And the polls showed a good, if necessary and predictable, result. From being 10 and at one time 17 points behind his Democratic opponent, Mr Michael Dukakis, Mr Bush has fought himself back to level-playing.

But the ripples from the announcement as his vice-presidential running mate of a political unknown with a pedigree as flawed as Senator Quayle's may change that position fast. It was easy to see why Mr Bush plumped for the conservative, handsome, vigorous and rich young man. He brought the youth and glamour which Mr Bush's advisers tell him he so conspicuously lacks. But that charm faded as reporters sifted his early life.

Some of that sifting may be motivated, as indignant Republicans insist, by political antagonism. But most of it takes place simply because reporters do their job.

Mr Bush, more than anyone, appreciates the importance of the *curriculum vitae*. He chose his junior partner on his own. He did so after weeks of careful thought. For him not to have realised the significance of Mr Quayle's service in the National Guard suggests a lack of judgement of popular interest.

Large numbers of young Americans tried to join the Guard in the 1960s as an alternative to

being drafted to Vietnam. Indeed, so many tried that one needed personal influence to do so — or, just as important for this case, it was commonly thought that one did.

It is not necessary to take a strong view over the substance of Senator Quayle's military service. He has himself admitted seeking help from a family friend to win acceptance. It can be argued that all he did was what countless others of his generation were trying to do.

But there is still much ill-feeling about "draft-dodging" in the United States. For a vice-presidential candidate to be suspected of it is bad. For one who has place so much emphasis on defence it is worse. For the issue to be apparently considered of so little account by Mr Bush is worse still.

Mr Quayle has, moreover, handled the affair badly. His attempt to brush questions aside, to accuse his tormentors of aiming "a cheap shot" at him, betrays a dangerous lack of experience and instinct. The least that Mr Bush needs of him is presentational skills. The least that the American people need of him is honesty.

This affair is of more than media interest to Western Europe. A victory for Mr Bush on November 8 would be in general Nato and European interests. It promises continuity. Mr Bush, by background and instinct, is an Atlanticist who is personally and politically familiar to Western leaders.

What does the new Bush-Quayle team do next? For Mr Bush to drop his new partner at the first sign of trouble would look like disloyalty and cowardice. It would risk weakening his position even further. The only possible course for Senator Quayle must be to confront his critics with total candour — even with regret. That way he might ride out the storm — and even win points for openness on the way.

As much as his would-be vice-president, Mr Bush is on trial. At the beginning of this week we pointed out the long list of "buts" beside "George Bush for president". There is now another to be erased before November.

## TIME, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN

Next week the "forbidden afternoon", as the Home Secretary, Mr Douglas Hurd, calls it, will be forbidden no more. Some 70 years after afternoon drinking was restricted in order to relieve a crisis in First World War armaments production, the lunchtime cry of "Last orders!" will no longer be coordinated throughout the land (except on a Sunday).

There are a number of good reasons for the change in the law — the ready availability of alcoholic drink from other retail sources, the un-catastrophic relaxation of licensing hours in Scotland, and tourist experience of Continental drinking patterns. We expect a number of good consequences, too.

There has long been an endearing streak of vanity in the way that publicans represent themselves as nature's entrepreneurs whose inventive genius is held back only by the spurious rigidities of law, licensing bench, and brewery. Struggling within such constraints, these poor men and women do their best to create "their local" by their own idiosyncratic ratio of stools to bottoms, carefully controlled sauciness of bar-persons, and the special way in which they present the beer-drinker with the dilemma of the jug or straight-sided glass.

Their true business skills may now be properly put to the test. Events may soon

confirm that the midday atmosphere of a public house owes rather more to the imposed pattern of closing and opening times than to the personality of the "host". The weekday lunchtime trade has a definite character to it. Afternoon custom will be different, and will challenge the creativity of licensees to fight for their share of it.

The reform should encourage diversity, experiment, and an expansion of facilities. Some of the traditional demarcations by which the licensing trade is set off from the rest of the eating and refreshment industry may, with luck, be swept away. Those wanting a cup of tea in the middle of the afternoon may even be able to share a table with companions who would prefer a beer — perhaps even a properly served and marketed low-alcohol beer.

The complaint has been heard that the ending of the compulsory closing time between 3 and 5.30 p.m. will increase insobriety. In Scotland this was shown to be a false assumption. Individuals, as before, will do better for themselves and their fellows if they act responsibly. The fact that a market is liberalized does not mean that personal behaviour need be — a point the Home Secretary may need to repeat from time to time.

## Rights and duties in 'workfare'

From Mr Peter Ashby

Sir, Raymond Plant is right to say (Commentary, August 16) that the debate about "workfare" is primarily about citizenship, and the rights and responsibilities of citizenship.

It is a shame, then, that he sets his article almost entirely in the context of the writings of two American theorists, Charles Murray and Lawrence Mead. Mead is cited as the main advocate of income being conditional on work status, and is the Mead view that seems to emerge as the favoured approach.

If the debate is about citizenship in Britain, should we not go back to William Beveridge who, all said and done, laid the basis for the income-maintenance system we have today? The principle of conditionality was at the heart of the Beveridge post-war settlement. Indeed, when the Prime Minister says that citizens have a responsibility to work she is not importing so-called new thinking from the United States; she is simply reaffirming one of the central tenets of the Beveridge system.

The moral dilemma we face is, of course, that millions of our fellow citizens are unable to exercise their responsibility to work through no fault of their own. This raises the question of what the reciprocal responsibilities of society should be, and it is this question that has so far largely been ducked in Britain.

For if one accepts the Beveridge principle of "income through work", as do Mrs Thatcher in Britain and Messrs Murray and Mead in the United States, and the labour market fails to generate that work by its own devices, one surely has an even greater moral responsibility than do those advocates of unconditional citizen rights (such as Professor Ralf Dahrendorf) to create at least temporary work opportunities until such time as the labour market can again deliver full employment.

The urgent need now is for a proper debate about developing some sort of long-term safety net of temporary work for the unemployed in Britain, as part of a "new Beveridge settlement" setting out the responsibilities both of the individual citizen and the State.

Yours faithfully,  
PETER ASHBY,  
St George's House,  
Windsor Castle,  
Windsor, Berkshire,  
August 17.

From Mr John Nash  
Sir, Raymond Plant's commentary on the fairness of "workfare" put up a number of arguments based on the assumption

## Reform of archives

From Mr Bruce Jackson  
Sir, I am sure both custodians and users of archives will welcome the Lord Chancellor's call (report, early editions, August 9) for a "new, effective system for co-ordinating the nation's archives".

At present there is no mechanism for such a step to be achieved, and many obstacles have to be overcome before such a mechanism can be created. Crucially, ministerial responsibility for archives is fragmented.

Further problems are created by the permissive nature of the legislation under which local authorities operate their archive services and this lack of statutory provision allows several areas of England to be left bereft of any archive service whatsoever.

## Central medical care

From Dr J. F. Rose  
Sir, It was encouraging to see some reference to the respective roles of district and community hospitals in the letters of Ray Whitney, MP, and Mr D. L. Crosby (August 16). A debate as to what categories of patients actually benefit from the "high tech" district hospital is long overdue.

There is likely to be broad agreement on the desirability of centralising surgical, perinatal, and intensive-care facilities and expertise. The management of non-surgical or medical patients is more contentious.

One view is that these cases are difficult to categorise and liable to

## Glydeborne grouse

From Mr R. D. Anchor  
Sir, As one who first went to Glydeborne in 1956, I entirely agree with Mrs Yardley's letter (August 15) in which she refers to people who fall asleep.

Perhaps the answer is to issue special "corporate" tickets which entitle the holder to walk round the gardens and enter one of several hospitality tents which could be set up near to the car park. In the tents, conviviality would reign and a video monitor

## Safety at sea

From Dr Basil Greenhill  
Sir, Sir Bryan Thwaites (August 13) calls us to go back to basics in our assessment of local weather conditions at sea. In *Westcountry Coastwise Ketches* (1974) the late Captain W. J. Slade wrote of the masters of sailing vessels from Appledore in north Devon in the early years of this century:

To me it was uncanny how these old men could forecast weather conditions... They could judge to a nicety whether it was going to be fine for a day or two by all sorts of phenomena, such as the actions of sea birds, the look of the sky, the actions of animals and even flies. Three frosty mornings in succession,

tion that "dependency deepens the condition it tries to cure".

I have spent the last 10 years sliding down the slippery slope from respected citizen (high salary/four-bedroom house with pool and orchard/three cars) to UB No 7607/72240 (unemployed/rebated council house/no car).

Does a development grant kill a company's desire to expand? Does an on-going CAP support kill the farmer's incentive to produce? Why should benefit payments kill the desire to work and earn a salary?

Benefit payments are not easily come by. To enjoy them, one has to sacrifice all pride, privacy and freedom.

Benefit cuts would increase misery. Coaxing the unemployed, by carrot or by stick, on to sanctioned public or private "chain gangs" would bring dignity to nobody.

The enterprise allowance scheme is a great help. Its scorecard may not be entirely successful, but how do you score the immense hope it brings people? The job clubs help a lot, too. Real training would be a real winner.

Of course benefit payments are an entitlement in a civilised society. They keep you away from the end of the pier at Christmas and birthday times, just when the water begins to look peaceful and inviting, and I am grateful for mine. They must remain an entitlement. Always.

I believe in capitalism, although I have slipped through a crack in its floorboards. Will somebody tell Professor Plant that not all of us fit into his neatly compartmented socio-economic, tabbed and indexed, demographically-sorted world. We are individuals, trying to get back on the bus. Some of us have hope, many of us have dignity, and we all have skills to offer. It's just that nobody wants to buy them.

Yours truly,  
JOHN NASH,  
52 Kernick Way,  
Hayle, Cornwall.

## Poor relations

From Mr Louis Heren  
Sir, The survey of the quality of life in Britain (report, August 17) fills me with hope. Can Londoners now expect the citizens of Bradford, Sheffield, Sunderland and other northern cities enjoying a superior quality of life to stop whingeing about the North-South divide?

Yours etc.  
LOUIS HEREN,  
Fleet House,  
Vale of Health,  
Hamstead, NW3,  
August 17.

As Lord Mackay said, this country has the richest collection of records in the world, but unless steps are taken to ensure their survival and accessibility, this means nothing. The formation of the National Council for Archives earlier this year represents an attempt by professional archivists and record users to improve the situation.

What is needed now is Government willingness to create a national record service or co-ordinated structure and to provide the necessary resources to make it work.

Yours faithfully,  
BRUCE JACKSON (Chief Archivist, Tyne and Wear),  
Wheldon House, Front Street,  
Exchester, Co Durham,  
August 13.

complications and therefore best served by the district hospital. Alternatively many, or even most, of these patients may be considered by their family doctors to have illnesses unlikely to be influenced by the expensive infrastructure of a district hospital.

Most patients, unable to be cared for at home, are now admitted to hospitals at a cost of about £100 per day. Whether this practice should be encouraged or alternatives considered is a question that is at least worth asking.

Yours faithfully,  
J. F. ROSE,  
Beechfield, The Terrace,  
Boston Spa,  
Wetherby, West Yorkshire,  
August 17.

would relay the proceedings from the opera house. (The sound could be turned down).

Opera-goers could then occupy the seats in the theatre and eat their sandwiches as usual during the interval. For corporate ticket-holders, it would be just like a race meeting!

Yours faithfully,  
R. D. ANCHOR,  
Lombardy House,  
Bittell Farm Road,  
Barn Green,  
Birmingham, West Midlands,  
August 17.

they used to say, meant southerly wind. They had no official weather forecast, but most of them studied the weather glass and if the glass was falling they took no notice as long as the stars were steady... I was once on a voyage from Lydney to an Irish port and cobwebs were hanging about. I said, "It's a sure sign of southerly wind and dirty rain." My father said, "You will have a fair wind. These are easterly wind cobwebs." How the blazes he knew the difference between southerly cobwebs and easterly cobwebs I never understood, but he was right.

Yours sincerely,  
BASIL GREENHILL,  
West Boethic Farmhouse,  
St Dominic,  
Saltash, Cornwall,  
August 14.

## Worse off under benefit changes

From Mr Stephen C. G. Wood

Sir, I am a tetraplegic (paralysed from the neck down) married man who has suffered great financial hardship as a consequence of the social security review. Because my entitlement to income support in May was to be some £17 per week less than my original supplementary benefit I was awarded transitional protection of £17.

A letter dated January 19 to my then MP, Mr Michael Portillo, stated, on behalf of the minister at the DHSS that

Although many claimants will be better off under the scheme, benefiting not only financially, but from an improved service which the simplified scheme should bring, a few like Mr Wood will be given transitional protection to ensure that they are not worse off as a result of the changes.

He went on to mention the OPCS (Office of Population Censuses and Surveys) "disabled people's survey" under Sir Roy Griffiths and closed

I do hope that you will now be in a

position to reassure Mr Wood that he will not be any worse off in April as a result of the changes.

In April I was not — but now in August I am. My mortgage interest has gone up by £13 per week but the DHSS will not increase my income to cover the amount, on account of my original entitlement to the £17 cited above, but now referred to as transitional *addition*! Somewhere along the way the idea of *protection* seems to have gone missing.

I am having to sell my adapted car so as to be able to restructure my finances and continue to live in my own home — as opposed to being separated from my wife and being forced into residential care.

Only 39 years old, we continue to live in fear of what the future on social security holds for us. Yours devastatedly,  
STEPHEN WOOD,  
3 Shaftesbury Grove,  
Birkdale,  
Southport, Lancashire,  
August 12.

## Survey of disabled

From Mr Peter Mitchell

Sir, When the first national survey of disabled people by the Office of Population Censuses and Surveys (OPCS) was published in 1971 it revealed that there were at least a million seriously-disabled people unknown to local authorities. The then Conservative Government immediately issued a circular advising councils on how best to conduct their own local surveys.

As Alf Morris reports (article August 2), rumours now abound that the recent OPCS survey has doubled the 1971 figures: yet the minister for the disabled has no intention of encouraging councils to find them and merely states that "it is premature to speculate on the potential use of the OPCS's methodology at local level".

It should be remembered that this survey has been used for four years as an excuse for eschewing any improvements in benefits for people with disabilities, although the Government has not hesitated

to chip away at existing entitlements. What the survey is likely to reveal is that the current hotchpotch serves disabled people badly, especially the very old.

A full and open debate on the OPCS data is essential, whether the Government likes it or not. To take one example, at the end of this year ministers may well allow 75-year-olds to retain mobility allowances awarded before the age of 65 on the grounds that the modest cost outweighs the political damage incurred when a benefit is withdrawn. This will bring renewed demands for entitlement to mobility allowance for all pensioners. It is, however, doubtful whether the mobility allowance criteria are the most appropriate for elderly people.

It is thorny questions such as this on which the OPCS report should shed light — that is if the Government does not succeed in hiding it under a bushel. Yours faithfully,  
P. C. B. MITCHELL,  
28 Balham Park Road, SW12.

## Inter-church relations

From the Reverend Stanley G. Luff

Sir, In Mr Gerard Noel's proposal (August 15) for a reconsideration of Anglican priestly orders by Roman Catholic authority he refers to the "new spirit of certain key passages in Vatican II documents". They are passages which do not lend themselves to brief quotation. The Decree on Ecumenism, however, speaking of the "sacred actions" of separated brethren, insists that they "truly engender a life of grace, and can be rightly described as capable of providing access to the community of salvation".

This is not quite the same as saying that Anglican (for example) "sacraments have a certain validity and pertain to the life of the Church", but it is certainly not asserting the plain opposite. The emphasis of the passage as a whole surely transcends the accepted distinction between validity and efficacy and seems to outdate the simplicity of a "null and void" verdict.

Nevertheless, I fail to see how

another Roman Commission on Anglican Orders could be regarded with unconditional optimism. So many diverse ingredients, political and theological as well as expedient, went into the long evolution of the Church of England, that I do not see how any group of persons, through a process of study and debate, can be relied upon to decide now what happened then.

There remains Mr Noel's plea for "an entirely new direction" to be pursued in the matter. The only new direction that occurs to me is along the lines of "economy", whereby, after an ecclesiastical rupture, a "healing act" is authorised to ensure sacramental fullness as churches reconcile. This has a more fraternal colour than a "conditional re-ordination".

The Western Church is not familiar with the theology of economy and it may deserve consideration in this context.

Yours faithfully,  
STANLEY G. LUFF,  
Our Lady's Church,  
College View,  
Llandover, Dyfed.

## Fear of flying

From Mrs Shirley Preston

Sir, I awaited the report on the "fear of flying" course run by Aviatours (August 16) with expectation that it would highlight the positive results of the many people confronting a very real fear.

I was sadly disappointed and feel it sensationalised the negative side, showing the active fear but not interviewing the people afterwards and hearing of their jubilation at conquering their phobia, and the avowals of so many to undertake longer flights in the near future with confidence.

I went on the course myself last Sunday, with your reporter, and I know that I am delighted with the result, have already booked another flight and feel most indebted to Mr Ord, Mr Hughes and Dr Yaffe for their understand-

ing, encouragement and kindness. Yours faithfully,  
SHIRLEY PRESTON,  
Rushfield, Tkeham,  
Pulborough, Sussex,  
August 16.

## Curbing credit

From Dr J. H. Rees  
Sir, Increasing the interest rates may reduce the purchasing power of the borrower but it equally increases that of the lender.

If consumerism needs to be restrained would not the imposition of VAT on credit prove a more efficient way of reducing money supply?

Yours faithfully,  
HYWEL REES,  
15 Northanger Court,  
Grove Street,  
Bath, Avon,  
August 15.

## Motorway dangers

From Mr A. P. Luley

Sir, The horrific accident on the M25 (report, August 18) involving a family of five and previous accidents in the same area in the past make it more necessary than ever for the Department of Transport to act.

Last year my company wrote to the department and put forward a number of safety recommendations, such as the use of video cameras in association with oral police warnings, as well as mobile gantries on motorways to draw attention to hazards such as road works. We received a four-line reply but no further action was taken. My company includes an accident-prevention unit and a specialist driving school.

At the height of the summer season more and more vehicles are pouring on to the M25. The three main causes of road traffic accidents are drink-related, excessive speed, and lack of concentration and consideration.

A fourth cause is lack of motorway driver training. Very few driving schools actually teach pupils how to enter or exit from a motorway-class road and how to drive on such a road, as part of the driver-training course. Yours truly,  
ANDREW P. LUTLEY,  
Complete Driver Services,  
4 Worcester Park Road,  
Worcester Park, Surrey.

From Mrs G. R. Chamberlin  
Sir, A breakdown on the hard shoulder of our motorways is a hazardous experience.

In *The Times* today (August 18) "motorists stopped on the hard shoulder are advised to wait a safe distance from the vehicle", but a friend who had occasion to call out the breakdown service was recommended by them to stay in her car with doors locked and windows shut.

On the Continent it is obligatory to carry warning triangles for emergency parking. Could we not reduce the danger of accidents here by having a similar ruling? Yours faithfully,  
ROSEMARY CHAMBERLIN,  
Warford, School Road,  
Wington,  
Bristol, Avon,  
August 18.

## On the run

From Professor Margaret Mackie

Sir, The sign that ensures that motorists remain on the run in Concord, Massachusetts, stands in manicured lawns in front of a town centre church and states firmly: "Thou shalt not even think of parking here".

Yours faithfully,  
MARGARET MACKIE,  
104 Breck Road,  
Poulton-le-Fylde, Lancashire,  
August 17.





## COURT AND SOCIAL

### COURT CIRCULAR

BUCKINGHAM PALACE  
August 19: The Prince Edward, Patron of the National Youth Orchestra of Scotland, this evening attended a Concert given by the Orchestra at the Royal Albert Hall.

Captain William McLean was in attendance.

Princess Margaret celebrates her birthday tomorrow.

### Birthdays

TODAY: Sir Martin Berthoud, diplomat, 57; Mr. Reginald Bevin, former MP, 80; Mr. J.M. Clay, banker, 61; Lieutenant-General Sir John Cowley, 83; Mr. John Embury, cricketer, 83; Mr. Anatole Fistoulari, conductor, 81; Mr. Rajiv Gandhi, Prime Minister of India, 44; Mr. Roy Hay, horticulturist, 78; Dr. Helen Muir, biochemist, 68; Sir John Plumb, former Master, Christ's College, Cambridge, 77; General Sir Nigel Poett, 81; Mr. Brian Rees, former headmaster, Rugby School, 59; Baroness Robson of Kidlington, 69.

TOMORROW: Mr. A.C. Abbott, stage designer, 65; Dame Janet Baker, opera singer, 55; Mr. Christopher Brasher, Olympic gold medalist and race director, London Marathon, 60; Miss Diana Churchill, actress, 75; Sir Kenneth Cork, former Lord Mayor of London, 75; Lord Goodman, CH, 75; Miss Anne Hobbs, tennis player, 29; the Hon Gerald Lascelles, 40; Dr. T.P. McLean, director, Atomic Weapons Research Establishment, 58; Mr. Barry Norman, broadcaster, 55; Mr. Sam Toy, former chairman, Ford Motor Company, 63; Lieutenant-General Sir Richard Vickers, 60.

### Service dinner

Army Catering Corps  
General Sir Geoffrey Howlett, Representative Colonel Commandant of the Army Catering Corps, presided at a ladies dinner held last night at the Headquarters Mess Aldershot to dine out the retiring Director, Brigadier Michael Patterson. Brigadier Keith Hudson, Colonel Commandant, and Brigadier Robin Maddy, Commandant, HQ ACC Training Centre, were among those present.

### Appointments

Sir Derek May, former British High Commissioner in Canada, to be a Vice-Chairman of the Council of the British Red Cross.

Sir Ronald Ernest Dearing to be a Board member of English Estates for three years from August 17, 1988.

Coopers and Lybrand to be auditors to the Thames Water Authority in succession to Arthur Anderson.

The following appointments are made to the Natural Environment Research Council:  
Professor Brian Thrush, of the Department of Physical Chemistry, Cambridge University, to serve for a further two years until July 31, 1990; Professor Roy Anderson, Lord Chorley, Professor Brian Hoskins, Mr. Donald Lennard and Professor Alistair MacLeary, to serve as members until July 31, 1991.

## Arm-twisting among the Lambeth fathers

George Austin

There is, as the Preacher says, nothing new under the sun. Reception, the "in" word of the Lambeth Conference and the means by which the bishops hope to prevent the possibility of schism within the Anglican Communion, has been around a long time.

Curiously, since one of the gravest problems to emerge in Anglican/Roman Catholic international discussions is the position of the Papacy, an uncomfortable similarity process (though not called such) is the basis for the development of the papal claim to *ex cathedra* infallibility, as well as the expression of this in the promulgation of the dogmas of the bodily Assumption of the Blessed Virgin and of her Immaculate Conception.

Having been widely accepted as part of Catholic devotion for centuries, it could be claimed that both these beliefs were held by a consensus of Catholic Christians, and so defined by Rome as truths required to be believed by the faithful. In other words, they were perceived to be "developments" of doctrine, which after wide acceptance in a process of "reception" were subsequently declared by the Church to be part of God's truth. Therein lies the first danger: that which the faithful might believe as an act of devotion becomes a test of orthodoxy.

In more recent years, reception has surfaced in ecumenical circles as the principle on which unity discussions should now rest, though lacking, of course, any concept of papal imprimatur. Until the rejection by the Church of England of the proposals for a Covenant between Anglicans and the major English Protestant Churches, ecumenical discussion had always been based on attempts to find a form of words acceptable to all participants, which would encompass differences of belief and practice. Since by its very nature it required the acceptance of ambiguity, it inevitably foundered on the twin altars of compromise and dilution.

At the very moment that the demise of the Covenant was being mourned by its proponents with a mixture of grief,

anger and mutual recrimination (which has not altogether disappeared), a new concept had already made its appearance in international dialogue between the churches: unity in diversity. It was altogether a more mature approach, accepting the integrity of diversity and recognizing that the very principles which seemed to divide might in the fullness of time be "received" as a wider comprehension of God's revelation to his Church.

As a result, doctrines like justification by faith on the one hand and the eucharistic sacrifice on the other, which at the Reformation seemed to be the basis for division, are now recognized as interpretations of the truth, without recourse to deceptive ambiguity. Moreover, the process includes "non-reception" and "de-reception" by which those portions of a church's life or faith which obscure or distort the Gospel are excised like a bad tooth. Here lies the second danger: that eternal truths which offend some contemporary secular fashion might be cast out as distortion.

Unfortunately, the manner in which reception has been seized upon by the Lambeth bishops as a means whereby the deep divisions in Anglicanism may be healed risks both dangers as well as creating its own. Because the process is set in train, so far as ministry is concerned, by actually putting into practice that which it suggests "may" be received in the future, it is not surprising that the attempts at unity by ambiguity, since it asks an apparently open question of the rest of the Anglican Communion when the American, Canadian and New Zealand provinces have no intention of accepting anything other than a positive answer.

Far from being a process of reception, it is in reality a prolonged and painful arm-twisting imposed upon those who cannot accept a particular modern trend in the Church. It is fair to ask if the Lambeth Fathers have fully considered the implications of the precedent which has been set.

For if the one development of women

in the priesthood and episcopate can be "received", it is legitimate and reasonable for the same provinces to ask: Can it be that Anglicans, by following biblical statements about morals — especially homosexual activity — have failed to witness to God's love for all? By worshipping only through masculine imagery, has liturgy been thereby disabled from acknowledging a full expression of God's nature?

Thus whereas the use of the principle of reception in ecumenical debate is "an owning by the churches of the results of convergence and consensus," in the Lambeth sense it can lead to the legitimizing of divergence and of deliberate ideological diversity. Unlike ecumenical reception, it is not an open-ended process which may or may not lead to final acceptance, but one whose end is pre-determined by the very action — that of the ordination of women — which is to be "received".

Thus, the Lambeth process of reception appears to mean simply that provinces which have not yet taken on board the new insights are given time to do so. Ultimately (and the time for reception must be limited, however extended that limit might be) a province which refuses to accept the priestly or episcopal orders of "lawfully ordained" women elsewhere in the Anglican Communion must be considered no longer part of the communion. Reception in this sense is a choice between an acceptance of the inevitable or a delayed excommunication for a deliberate refusal to "receive" that which the Church has declared to be truth.

The Lambeth bishops must surely have failed to notice that paradoxically this owes more to the process which affirmed papal infallibility and the Marian dogmas than to the understanding of reception in ecumenical dialogue. And given the nature of the Anglican Communion, this is a recipe not for unity but for disintegration.

St George's Reception — an Ecumenical Opportunity  
George Austin, Vicar of Bushey, Herts is soon to be Archdeacon of York

### Saleroom

## Car mascots of worth

By Jennie Gilbert

Any motorist who has recently found empty screwholes in the bonnet where the badge once was, will be only too aware of the latest craze in car collectables.

At Christie's sale of motor-car Art and Literature, on Thursday, "art of the two dimensional sort" sold disappointingly. The top price of £1,650 paid for a pair of Vittorio Sodo portraits of Ferrari was a long way short of the £2,500-£3,500 expected.

What the crowd had come for were the mascots and badges. A radiator cap, adorned with a chromium plated swan was expected to fetch £120-£180; bidding went up to £1,100.

Another radiator cap, this time in the form of a sulky looking cherub in nickel plate tripled its estimate to make £660.

The other relative high spot of the week at Christie's was the sale of costumes and textiles in which a single lot brought in a third of the auction's total. A London dealer paid a staggering £15,400 for an early needlework rug thought to have been made for Hever Castle.

And there was fierce bidding in the provinces this week and a little intrigue to boot. Henry Spencer and



Pete Best, the fifth Beatle, selling off his memories

Son's Retford sale was ostensibly a modest affair featuring clocks, weapons and musical instruments.

Dealers from London turned out in force to make the top price of £2,300 for a mahogany-cased clock expected to fetch nearer £5,000. The chief surprise though was lot 149: "a quantity of fishing reels, leather boxes and other items..." with a guide price of £40-£60, which went for £1,000.

Original Beatles drummer Pete Best is selling his memories of the group's early years. Best was replaced by Ringo Starr on the eve of the group's breakthrough. His scrapbook of the band's career from 1960 to 1962 is expected to fetch between £10,000 and £15,000 at Sotheby's next month.

## Forthcoming marriages

Mr J.A. Doughty and Miss P.J. Barsby

The engagement is announced between John, son of Mr and Mrs George Doughty, of 60 Clonmel Road, SW6, and Penelope, daughter of Mr and Mrs Donald Barsby, of Calington, High Range, New South Wales.

Mr G. Evans and Miss C. Green  
The engagement is announced between Gareth, younger son of Philip and Eileen Evans, of Springfield, Chesham, and Catherine, elder daughter of Christopher Green, of Petersfield, Hampshire, and Harriet Leppan, of Heme, Kent.

Mr I.W. Furniss and Miss E.J. Dolby  
The engagement is announced between Ian, youngest son of Mr and Mrs E.J. Furniss, of Purley, Surrey, and Lindsey, daughter of Lieutenant-Colonel C.R. Dolby (ret), and Mrs Dolby, of Well End, Buckinghamshire.

Mr M.V. Higson and Miss B.J. Reilly  
The engagement is announced between Mark, elder son of Mr and Mrs Peter Moorhouse, of Bucks Hill, Hertfordshire, and Barbara, eldest daughter of Mr and Mrs Siegfried Rolewicz, of Cricklewood, North London.

Mr J.E.S. Richards and Miss E.J.L. Donne  
The engagement is announced between Jonathan Eric Streeter, youngest son of Mr C.E. Richards, FRSC, and Mrs Richards, of Penhale, Portcatho, Cornwall, and Emma Jane Louise, daughter of Mr Anthony Donne, QC, and Mrs Donne, of Caton House, Ivybridge, Devon.

Dr D. O'Sullivan and Dr A. Bhan

The engagement is announced between Douglas, elder son of the late Mr and Mrs D. O'Sullivan, of Sunday's Well, Cork, and Angelica, only daughter of Mr and Mrs M. Bhan, of Nuneston, Warwickshire.

Mr D. Washington and Miss F. Albury  
The engagement is announced between Darren, son of Mr and Mrs T. Washington, of Wigmore, Kent, and Francesca, daughter of Mr and Mrs D.L. Albury, of New Ash Green, Dorset, Kent.

Mr J.P. Wells and Miss S.J.E. Fitzmaurice  
The engagement is announced between John, youngest son of the late Mr Peter Wells and of Mrs Kathleen Wells, of Haywards Heath, Sussex, and Sarah, only daughter of Mr Guy Fitzmaurice, of Winchester, Sussex, and Mrs Jane Fitzmaurice, of Charlbury, Oxfordshire.

### Marriages

Mr D.S. Hooper and Miss C.M. Danbery  
The marriage took place on July 29, of Mr David Hooper, son of Sir Robin Hooper and the late Lady Hooper, to Miss Caroline Danbery, daughter of the late Sir Peter Danbery and of Lady Danbery.

Mr C.J. Barry and Miss M.J. Sharp  
The marriage took place on Monday, August 8, 1988, at the Church of St Mary the Virgin, Walsley, between Mr Christopher Barry, youngest son of Mr and Mrs J.W. Barry, of Sherborne, Dorset, and Miss Melinda Sharp, daughter of Mr and Mrs J.W.G. Sharp, of Walmer, Kent. The Rev Bruce Hawkins officiated.

Lieutenant C.J. Connolly, RN and Captain G.M. Perks, WRAC  
The marriage took place in Chesterfield, on Friday, August 19, between Lieutenant Christopher Connolly, RN, and Captain Gillian Perks, WRAC.

Mr N.J. Way and Miss E.K. Papp  
The marriage took place on August 13, at St Mark's Church, Purley, between Mr Nicholas John Way, son of Mr and Mrs J.B. Way, of Purley, and Miss Leena Kandil Popat, daughter of Dr and Mrs K.K. Popat, of Reigate.

### University news

University of London  
The title of Reader in Pharmacology has been conferred on Dr D.A.W. Wray by the Senate of London University. Dr Wray is Senior Lecturer in Pharmacology at the Royal Free Hospital Medical School, and Director of the Academic Department of Pharmacology.

Dr Brent W. Taylor, Senior Lecturer in Child Health at St Mary's Hospital Medical School, has been appointed to the new Chair of Community Child Health. Dr Taylor will take up the post during the Academic Year 1988-89.

Dr Anthony F. Winder, Reader in Pathology at the University of Leicester, is appointed to the Chair of Clinical Pathology with effect from November 1, 1988.

Queen Mary College is to confer Honorary Fellowships on Dr John Alvey, former Managing

Director, Development and Procurement and Engineer-in-Chief, British Telecom; Mr Bryan Magee, philosopher and broadcaster and former MP for Leyton, and Mr Nicholas Sedgwick, Director of the Whitechapel Art Gallery and Director-Elect of the Tate Gallery.

The Fellowship of the College will also be conferred on Professor D.C. Bradley, Emeritus Professor of Inorganic Chemistry at QMC; Mr John Gross, writer and editor, and Mr Christopher Barry, youngest son of Mr and Mrs J.W. Barry, of Sherborne, Dorset, and Miss Melinda Sharp, daughter of Mr and Mrs J.W.G. Sharp, of Walmer, Kent. The Rev Bruce Hawkins officiated.

The ceremony will be held at 4pm on November 7, 1988 in the College's Great Hall.

### Anniversaries

Births: Benjamin Harrison, 23rd president of the USA (1889-93), North Bend, Ohio, 1833; Raymond Poincaré, president of France (1913-20), Bar-le-Duc, 1860; Charles Tchernichowsky, poet, Crimea, 1875; Deaths: Thomas Winter, styled 'Tom Spring' champion of England pugilist, London, 1851; Jules Laforgue, poet, Paris, 1887; William Booth, founder of the Salvation Army, London, 1912; Paul Ehrlich, bacteriologist, Nobel laureate 1908, Bad Homburg vor der Höhe, 1915; Federico Garcia Lorca, dramatist and poet, murdered, Granada, 1936; Leon Trotsky, murdered, Mexico City, 1940.

Tomorrow  
Births: Jean Baptiste Greuze, painter, Macon, 1725; William Murdoch, inventor, Auchinleck, Strathclyde, 1754; William IV, emperor of Russia, 1826; Backlund, 1763; Charles Gerhardt, chemist, Strasbourg, 1816; Aubrey Beardsley, illustrator, Brighton, 1872; 'Count' Basie, jazz pianist, Red Bank, New Jersey, 1904; Deaths: Richard Crashaw, poet, Loretto, Italy, 1649; Lady Mary Wortley Montagu, writer, London, 1762; Sir Benjamin Thompson, Count von Rumford, founder of the Royal Institution, Auteuil, 1814; Sir Jacob Epstein, London, 1959.

## OBITUARY

# SIR FREDERICK ASHTON

## Great Choreographer and founder-figure of British ballet

Sir Frederick Ashton, OM, CH, one of the founders of British ballet, died on August 18 at the age of 83.

First as dancer, then as director, he played a distinguished part in the creation and growth of a national company and a native tradition. His unique contribution, however, was in his choreography. As a creative artist he was recognized by and excelled by none in the whole history of the art he served.

There would, thanks to the determination and effort of others, have been some kind of British ballet today even without Ashton. It is impossible to imagine that it would have achieved the immense international reputation it enjoys had not been there to create a repertoire and a style. His public gifts brought him universal respect, and his private qualities ensured also that he enjoyed the love of those who knew him.

Frederick William Mallandaine Ashton was born of English parents at Guayaquil, Ecuador, on September 17, 1904. He was brought up in Lima, Peru, where he had two experiences crucial to his future career. The first was acting as acolyte to the Archbishop and thus acquiring a love of ritual; the second was being taken to see Anna Pavlova dance.

This gave him the urge to become a dancer himself, but such a career was unheard of in a respectable middle-class family at that time.

"My father was horrified," Ashton once recalled. "You can imagine the middle-class attitude. My mother would say: 'He wants to go on the stage.' She could not bring herself to say 'into the ballet'."

Before he could follow his vocation he was sent to a minor English public school, where he was miserably unhappy, and put to work with an import-export firm in the City.

Only then could he begin to take classes in secret and eventually, when frustrated ambition was harming his health, he was allowed to work full time and openly at what he wanted.

Luck had it that he began his studies with Massine, who happened to advertise for pupils. Massine in turn sent him to Marie Rambert, who quickly discovered his talent for choreography. So it came about that Ashton created his first ballet, *Tragedy of Fashion*, in 1926 while still a pupil. This was a chic, amusing little work added to the revue *Riverside Nights*.

During the next few years Ashton danced in variety concerts, spent a year with Ida Rubinstein's company (where he enjoyed the chance to work under Bronislava Nijinska, a big influence on his own choreography), and performed with the small company Marie Rambert gathered together whenever possible. For them he created a series of ballets including *Capriol Suite* which long remained in the repertoire.

Ashton's first big hit, however, was *Facade*, first given in 1931 by the Camargo Society with a cast including Lydia Lopokova and Alicia Markova. Its insouciant parodies of popular dances have remained a source of amusement ever since and it has been performed repeatedly all over the world.

His first work for Ninette de Valois's young Vic-Wells Ballet was *Regatta* in 1932. The following year he composed for three same dancers, with Stanislas Idzikowsky as guest, the light but brilliant *Les*

*Rendezvous*, which also remains to this day in the international repertoire.

He joined the Vic-Wells permanently in 1935 and began a richly productive period. His *Apparitions* in 1936 was by many compared favourably with Massine's *Symphonie Fantastique* on a similar theme, and that year saw also the touching *Nocturne* to Delius's *Pavane*. These works have vanished, but the following year's witty *A Wedding Bouquet* and *Les Patineurs* are still with us.



Meanwhile, his fame was spreading abroad. Already in 1934 he had created dances for the Gertrude Stein-Virgil Thomson opera *Four Saints in Three Acts*, and in 1939 he made his first ballet for a foreign company: *Devil's Holiday* for Ballet Russe de Monte Carlo.

The outbreak of war inspired Ashton to the tragic, intense *Dante Sonata*; later he served in the Royal Air Force but was occasionally given special leave to create a new ballet. His next outstanding production, however, was *Symphonic Variations* with which he greeted the company's transfer to Covent Garden in 1946: an outpouring of pure dance which shows his lyrical gifts at their finest.

This began a series of beautiful plotless ballets, notably *Valses Nobles et Sentimentales*, *Scènes de Ballet* and *Monotones*. But he also began a series of large-scale dramatic works adapting the formula of 19th century classical ballet into a contemporary idiom.

The first of these was *Cinderella*, in 1948, for which he drew ingeniously on the English pantomime tradition. There followed *Sylvia*, *Romeo and Juliet* (for the Royal Danish Ballet), *Ondine*, *La Fille mal gardée* and *The Two Pigeons*.

Of these, *Fille* has proved his most popular ballet, reproduced with success all over the world, but all of them illustrated the multiplicity of his gifts: for the invention of always attractive pure dances, for the vivid expression of character, and for a lively sense of comedy.

Nobody could better shape a role to the abilities of a dancer, often revealing qualities beyond those of which the dancer was aware. Margot Fonteyn, in particular, was developed by Ashton in a long series of roles from *Rio Grande* in 1935 to *Marguerite and Armand* three decades later, and including, besides many of the works already mentioned, the sublime *Daphnis and Chloé*.

Ashton was also greatly adroit at turning a *piece d'occasion* into something which long outlived the occasion which gave it birth.

Examples were his coronation ballet *Homage to the Queen*; the *Birthday Offering*, which celebrated the Royal Ballet's 25th anniversary in 1956, and the immensely amusing *The Dream* which he mounted for the 40th

anniversary of Shakespeare's birth.

He turned his hand successfully to opera production (*Manon*, *Albert Herring* and a memorable *Orpheus* with Kathleen Ferrier) and also provided dances for films and plays. The list of his productions runs well into three figures.

His position as one of the Royal Ballet's artistic directors was first officially recognized in 1948, although it had long been apparent in practice. He succeeded Dame Ninette as director of the company in 1963 and held the position until 1970, when he officially retired although actually remaining active as choreographer and performer.

The measure of Ashton's greatness can be seen in both the quality and the variety of his work. He had a gift which might, without immodest comparison, be called Shakespearean, for moving within a single work from the most tender expression of love to wild knockabout comedy or delicately barbed wit. Besides, it was the experience of dancing his ballets which helped to mould the whole style of dancing associated with the Royal Ballet. The freshness, purity and poise of the English style at its best are in fact Ashton's style.

Ashton was created CBE in 1950, knighted in 1962, made a Companion of Honour in 1970 and received the Order of Merit seven years later. For his work he was also admitted to the Legion d'Honneur, made a Commander of the Danish Order of Dannebrog, and awarded the Swedish and Carina Ari gold medals. In 1959 his own profession honoured him with the Royal Academy of Dancing Queen Elizabeth II Coronation Award.

The tribute of what he was perhaps most proud, however, was one entirely unique to him. On the occasion of his retirement from the Royal Ballet, the dancers planned, prepared and rehearsed, in secret, a complete programme commemorating Ashton's achievements. Dances from old works, which everyone thought long-forgotten, were painstakingly remembered and restored.

No such retrospective display of a choreographer's career had ever been attempted before, nor is it easy to imagine it happening again, since the motive was the love which Ashton had the rare gift of inspiring in those who worked with him. Even those who knew him only through his work could share some part of this affection, since it was there alone that this shy, modest man revealed himself.

After he retired from the directorship Ashton continued to create new works, but naturally with less frequency and usually on a small scale, often for favourite dancers to perform on special occasions.

More important was the fact that, thanks to the enthusiasm and determination of Peter Schaufuss, Ashton's long-lost *Romeo and Juliet* was re-staged in a new production, supervised by the choreographer for London Festival Ballet, and that Anthony Dowell, as director of the Royal Ballet, later accomplished a similar salvation for another of Ashton's biggest works, *Ondine*.

Thanks to these acts of homage, the achievement of Ashton in his prime was shown to a new generation and will be available also for posterity as the ballets have now been recorded in a system of notation invented only since their creation.

He will be sadly missed, but his ballets will be an enduring memorial.

## HERR H. H. STUCKENSCHMIDT

Herr H.H. Stuckenschmidt, the distinguished Berlin music critic and a leading authority on 20th-century European music, died on August 15 at the age of 86.

Possibly his outstanding achievement was his biography of Schoenberg, a work of intensive research which finally reached publication in the Schoenberg centenary year of 1974. However, his sympathies were wide, and perhaps most keenly engaged by music which similarly avoided allegiance to any particular school: the music of such contemporaries of his as Boris Blacher and Karl Amadeus Hartmann.

Hans Heinz Stuckenschmidt was born in Strasbourg in 1901, and attended schools in Berlin, Ulm and Magdeburg, gaining his musical education from private teachers; he studied the violin, the piano and composition.

During the 1920s he established himself as a freelance composer, critic and organizer of contemporary-music concerts, living for short periods in Bremen, Hamburg, Vienna, Paris, Berlin and Prague; it was this international experience that alerted him to the importance of both Schoenberg and Stravinsky, at a time when the two were seen, by commentators all the way from Adorno to Cocteau, very much as alternatives.

At the beginning of the 1930s he returned to Berlin, where, as an observer, he attended Schoenberg's classes at the Prussian Academy of Arts. His support for contemporary music, and for Jewish musicians, brought a ban on him by the Nazi authorities in 1934, from which point he was forbidden to write in German newspapers.

In 1937 he began working for German-language papers in Prague, until there too he was banned and, in 1942, conscripted as an armed forces' interpreter. In 1946 he returned to Berlin, where he remained, teaching music history at the Technische Universität from 1948 until his retirement in 1967, and writing for the *Neue Zürcher Zeitung* from 1946 to 1957 and thereafter for the *Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung*.

It was during these Berlin years, too, that he became a prolific author of books on 20th-century music, including studies of Blacher (1963), Ravel (1966) and Busoni (1968), and an introductory guide, *Twentieth Century Music* (1969).

Stuckenschmidt's achievement, not least in this quite short book, was to draw attention to the significant threads in musical modernism, and he remained an eager and astute follower of composers a full generation younger than himself: composers such as Boulez, Stockhausen and Penderecki.

He saw it as his business less to judge than to observe, to watch the many forking paths towards the common ground that he looked for.

He was, in essence, a historian more than a critic: his self-effacement perhaps prevented him from going more deeply into the music in his book on Schoenberg, but through his acumen and his thoroughness he created a biography of unusual detail, and he leaves many younger critics and composers in his debt for his clear charting of a confused century.

He was married to Margit Hinnenberg-Lefebvre, a noted Schoenberg singer.

### MME ANNE-MARIE CAZALIS

Sir Isaac Berlin writes:  
The last paragraph of your obituary (August 12) of Mme Anne-Marie Cazalis requires some qualification. At a party, at which I was present, Jean Cocteau said that it was to him that André Gide sent his telegram from beyond the grave. The text he quoted was, to the best of my recollection: "L'enfer n'existe pas. Prévenez"

Claudel. Ne dites rien à Sartre. (Hell does not exist. Warn Claudel. Say nothing to Sartre.)

This is far more plausible on all grounds. If the recipient had been Mauriac, he would almost certainly have suppressed it. Gide was not "his fellow Roman Catholic"; he was a member of a well-known Protestant family.

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August 20-26, 1988

SATURDAY

مكتبة النخيل

A WEEKLY GUIDE TO LEISURE ENTERTAINMENT AND THE ARTS

# When the bear dances in

Changes in lifestyle are being used by stock market analysts to predict the economic climate of the 1990s.

Bryan Appleyard glimpses the future

**K**ee your eye on the tanning factor. Forget the Dow Jones Average. Mystic Meg or the I Ching: the real key to the future lies in the little numbers on the bottles of sun tan lotion — and they are rising ominously. In America, the big seller is now Factor 15. Coating yourself with this is the equivalent of not sunbathing at all. It blocks out the sun almost completely. You get back from Marbella as white as when you left Luton. But, and this is the point, you are unlikely to contract skin cancer and you do not look like yet another Eighties success story.

For the word is that the Eighties are over. The whole big, brightly coloured package of optimism, money and the greedy good times is about to come unwrapped. Inside is the New Pessimism, a drab cocktail of sobriety, restraint and social concern.

Little time bombs of despair have been ticking away beneath the big parade of unbridled economic growth. As they detonate, the tanned, skiing, BMW-driving Eurotrash who have ruled the decade will be replaced by pale, caring creatures who wake up worrying about the ozone layer.

Factor 15 apart, the evidence for this impending transformation seems to be real enough. This is not mere glossy style-watching. There is, for a start, the problem of the next recession. This was widely forecast within six months of last October's stock market crash. It did not materialize. Yet few economists would deny that it is bound to happen sooner or later. Nothing, least of all bull markets, lasts forever.

But the crash proved that a simple reading of the charts of stock market prices was not enough. The crash of '87 did not follow the pattern of the crash of '29. The real economy did not follow the market. Now the pessimists have turned to a more subtle and comprehensive reading of the global entrails. The idea is that the crash is a cultural as well as a financial phenomenon. People will act, even dress, differently as bear succeeds bull, anxiety succeeds optimism.

The most specific and systematic form of this belief comes from an influential Wall Street stock market analyst called Robert Prechter. Prechter is a believer in



Predicting a change of pace in the next decade: left, sunbathing, hedonistic fashions and the greed-is-good thinking of the supposedly frivolous Eighties will give way to the New Pessimism of the Nineties, right, which is likely to be exemplified by more sombre clothes, paler skins, a gloomier stock market picture and a heightened interest in issues such as the environment

the Big View. He analyses the markets via trends in mini-skirts, pop music and chat shows. His latest forecast even brings in *The Phantom of the Opera* as evidence of the rise of the anti-hero mentality and the reduction of the use of canned laughter on TV comedy shows as a sign of the decline of communal glee. The portents, he argues in *New York* magazine this month, are as dire as those he detected in 1968-69, when the Sixties binge began to turn into a hangover.

"We are now," Prechter says, "in a transitional phase back toward a mood of pessimism. It's an inevitable occurrence born from human nature. Trends appear, society takes them as far as

possible, then the trend reverses."

The other tell-tale signs in the US are a sinister lull in trading on Wall Street, an alarming decline in restaurant business in Washington and the resurgence of "heavy metal" rock music in the form of groups like Megadeth and Metallica. Religion and fringe mysticism are, meanwhile, enjoying a boom. To check it out yourself turn up at the Los Angeles branch of the London nightclub Tramp. On the Friday night I went, the heavies were still there, keeping out the undesirables, the uninvited and the unchic, but inside it was almost empty. Californians now go to bed early and rise at dawn to go to the gym. Life is being taken seriously and immune systems are being strengthened. Aids is the most potent reason of all to leave the party.

Except, of course, you can prove anything in America. Since the crash of '87, looking for reasons to despair has become a cottage industry. In part there is a simple desire to be perverse. With peace breaking out all over the globe and economic growth still going strong for most people, it is always tempting to claim that the end of the world is nigh. Gloom may be just another symptom of Stateside hysteria. A sceptical Mark Ellen, editor of *Q* magazine, points out that, in contrast to LA, groovy British clubs have been enjoying what he describes as "a new summer of love".

But Ellen does admit that there are worrying — though to him welcome — signs of a new seriousness breaking out in the new pop industry. The Eighties have been marked by the success of production line music. The writing and producing team of Stock, Aitken and Waterman have blithely generated hits with the actual performers — people like Bananarama, Kylie Minogue and Rick Astley — being almost a secondary part of the process. "I think all that is coming to an end," he says, "and we are seeing the rise of singer-songwriters like Tracy Chapman with songs that are actually about something. It used to be called personal politics."

The key to this may be the fact that suddenly there does appear to be something to sing about — anxiety. Anxiety in its purest form was a disease of the Seventies. It arose from the conviction following the oil crisis that the entire machinery of capitalism was about to grind to a halt. This was accompanied by a whole series of gloomy forecasts about the inability of the planet to sustain our appetite for growth. Unfortunately for the environmentalists, the worst forecasts did not immed-

ately come true, leaving us free to forget them in the Eighties. Growth then produced the care-free attitude that the planetary system would somehow survive.

"We had the Ronald Reagan attitude that if you've seen one tree then you've seen them all," comments Robin Maynard of Friends of the Earth, "but after Chernobyl our telephones were jammed with calls from people who were suddenly worried that things were going wrong. Then we had that story that Prince Charles had banned Di from using her hair spray and that was even bigger."

Hair sprays, of course, are said to contain chemicals which destroy the ozone layer and potentially threaten all life on earth. It was a theory that seemed a little

late sustainability — all new developments will be judged by the extent to which the systems of the planet can sustain them. It will no longer be a question of simple, unfettered growth."

The effect of such concerns at the level of everyday life could be a move away from the excesses associated with the confident capitalism of the Eighties, in which the design of buildings and the interiors of shops all took on an exuberant, decorative quality on the assumption that there was plenty of "added value" to sustain such frivolity.

"The Eighties were all about glamour design," says David Rivett, a director of the design group Fitch & Co. "There is now a movement towards a more restrained approach which suggests quality."

Rivett mentions the Next shops as a precursor. Their interiors are rich but restrained and the clothes tend towards the subdued. Meanwhile, in Paris, the high fashion collections for the autumn have tended to subscribe to what *Women's Wear Daily* calls the New Calm — quiet colours and severe classical lines, in contrast to the recent outbursts of wild colours and shapes.

In addition, Rivett believes that the design emphasis will move away from showy areas like retailing to manufacturing. This, of course, is the area of the economy that suffered most in the Eighties as all the excitement in the economy moved in the direction of "frothy" sectors like financial services, while heavy industry quietly rusted away. But Nineties seriousness, according to Rivett, would mean that manufacturing would take on a more genuine, moral tone, something more virtuous and substantial to contrast with the hot money scandals in the City.

Peace, however, would seem to be one area where the present decade does appear to have achieved something. Regional conflicts are being resolved from the Gulf to Afghanistan, and the Russians and the Americans appear to be competing to dismantle their arsenals. The dark side of this can be found in the real motives of the Russians.

"People may be misreading the true nature of Gorbachev's reforms," says Michael Goodwin, director of the Institute for the Study of Conflict. "He is not challenging the central role of the Communist Party. He is working to strengthen communism. That could, in the long run, produce a more confident, assertive Soviet Union."

So the gloomy Nineties view of

## DO YOU ENJOY PLAYING THE PIANO?

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## THE NEW CALM

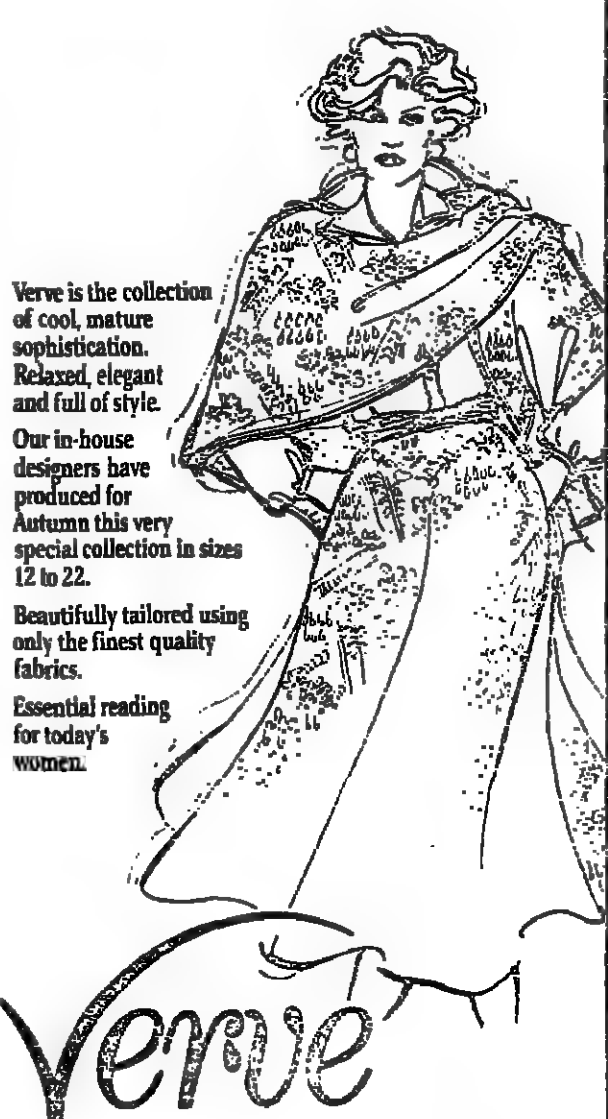
Signpost: *Women's Wear Daily* charts the trends  
**'The buzz word of the Nineties will be sustainability. It will no longer be unfettered growth'**

far-fetched until, suddenly, the hole in the ozone layer was discovered hovering over the Arctic. On top of that, the long-forecast "greenhouse effect" actually seemed to be happening. Carbon dioxide emissions were causing the earth to heat up uncontrollably. Again it was seen as a wild theory, until a NASA scientist blamed this summer's drought in the US on this warming process. The wider anxieties of the mid-Seventies suddenly seem to be well-founded in the late Eighties as seals die in the North Sea and New York beaches are flooded with medical detritus.

"People are beginning to move away from the Eighties view that the oceans are a sort of infinite dustbin into which you can pour anything," Maynard says. "They now realize it can be overdone with these noxious substances. The buzz word of the Nineties will

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Edited by Shona Crawford Poole

## TRAVEL 2

Andrew Powell explores the unspoilt island of Koh Samui in the Gulf of Thailand before tourism inevitably take its toll

## A paradise almost lost

Now is the time to discover this idyllic dot in the ocean before anyone else does.

That is what the brochure said. I referred the matter to a friend knowledgeable about Thailand. "Koh Samui? Unknown! Not these days! It's where all those yuppies go to retire on their 28th birthdays."

On the plane down from Bangkok, I pondered this opportunity for sociological observation. How precisely did one recognize a yuppie in retirement? Would one find people slumped in hammocks, their heads pillowed by portable fax machines?

Koh Samui is a small island (about 32 miles round) in the Gulf of Thailand. Despite the fact that it has recently been taken up by several travel companies as the new place to enjoy a languid tropical holiday, it is still fairly arduous to get to. First you have to fly from Bangkok to the provincial capital of Surat Thani. There the airline provides a shuttle bus to the port of Donsak, a two-hour drive away, where you catch the ferry over to the island, a crossing which takes a further hour and a half.

Of course none of this was supposed to be necessary by now. A few years ago it was decided in some high place in Bangkok that Koh Samui was ripe for development. At vast expense an airport was duly built, so that tourists could fly non-stop from the nation's capital. Unfortunately when the first plane landed there was a squishy thud, and its wheels left behind some rather embarrassing dents in the tarmac. Since that fateful day the airport has been closed for re-amination.

I surveyed my fellow passengers at the ferry terminal, hoping to spot my first refugee from the money markets. No luck. There were a lot of Thai people who had clearly been on a shopping spree on the mainland and were now going home with the kitchen sink and a good deal else besides. There was also a fair number of young travellers, mostly Australian, who, judging from the depth of their suntans, had already spent two or three months in Bali.

An afternoon shower threw a fine gauze over the landscape, so I decided to wait inside where there was an unpretentious restaurant. At its equivalent in Britain, one might, if fortunate, have been able to buy a cheese sandwich for about £1.75. This being Thailand, I ordered a kaleidoscopic bowl of stir-fried seafood for 30p.

The ferry, when it turned up, was a bit of a shock. It seemed as though it might have begun life 40 or 50 years ago on the Solent. After a lengthy spell in Piraeus, followed



Meditation huts on the Big Buddha Beach bask in the shadow of Hin Ngu temple and (right) a family cruise round the island on a motorbike, a journey of only a couple of hours even with stops for sightseeing

by a stint taking pilgrims on the Haj, it had evidently come to spend its declining years in Koh Samui. It looked, in short, like a news story waiting to happen.

There was a lot of juddering and thumping as we edged away from the jetty and flakes of rust drifted down on to the passengers' heads from the ceiling. Still, the view made up for the nagging sense of impending calamity. The coastline of Thailand near Donsak is contorted into the improbable shapes of a Chinese scroll painting, while to the east, the dark, turtle-like bulk of Koh Samui floated in a silvery, shimmering sea.

It was a bit like arriving on a Greek island. Crowds of people with rooms to let were waiting on the quayside to inveigle the travel-weary. A couple of buses tried to reverse into the harbour and men with gold braid had hysterics. Fortunately I had a reservation and quickly found a taxi. By now it was dark, and as there were few street lights the island slipped enigmatically past the windows.

I awoke to find myself in a room looking out on to five miles of white sand called Chaweng Noi. Most of the accommodation on Koh Samui is on the east coast (facing Vietnam), where the best beaches are. I say "accommodation" because although there are only two hotels of any note, there

are hundreds of wooden bungalows, put up by the local people, available for rent for just a few pounds a night.

I set off for a pre-breakfast stroll. All along the beach, the palm groves were packed with these simple cottages of unpainted timber. Most had a verandah with a hammock, ideal for long novels. There were only a few people about: doing press-ups, playing frizbee, or swimming idly in a sea as calm as a sheet of Perspex.

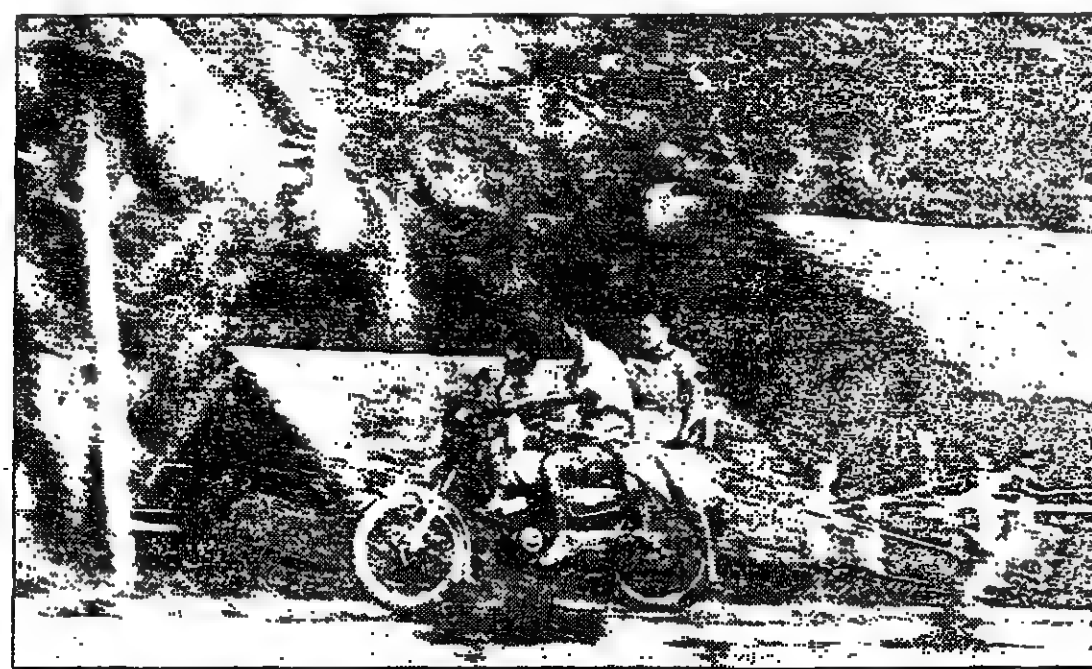
To drive round Koh Samui takes about two hours if you go quite slowly and keep getting out to look at things. Most visitors hire some form of transport as soon as they arrive in order to hunt down the bungalow of their choice. This may be on a big beach like Chaweng Noi or in a secluded fishing village where they are the only foreigners.

I set off in a rather flash Suzuki jeep, which attracted looks of ill-concealed envy from the male half of the population. Such desirable consumer baubles have evidently not been around for long. The landscape of the island is uniformly green and hilly, virtually every square foot of flat land being planted with coconut palms. Copra is still the major source of income and every village has its rust-coloured mountain of husks. There are about 30 major settlements and one town, Na Thon.

Despite the advent of tourism, Koh Samui seems to have retained its air of innocence. So far. Unlike Phuket, Thailand's other holiday island, the inhabitants still appear more amused than annoyed by the curious antics of foreigners. They don't understand them, but they're willing to please. Outside several sedate-looking guest houses there were unobtrusive signs: the sort which in Paignton would say "No Vacancies", here advertised "Magic Mushrooms".

Quite how long this tranquil state of affairs will continue when the runway has been adequately reinforced is a moot point. The construction of a faulty airport has so far resulted in two sizeable modern hotels (The Imperial and Tongyai Bay) both of which, happily, are well-designed, attractive places. However, when the jets begin landing on a daily basis I've little doubt that the Koh Samui Sheraton, Meridian and Holiday Inn will not be long delayed.

For the moment, if you are looking for a relatively inexpensive tropical holiday in languorous surroundings, then Koh Samui has much to recommend it. Two weeks at the best hotel cost approximately half what they would in comparable accommodation in Barbados, most of the beaches are deserted, the sea is clean, and the food, as everywhere



in Thailand, is delicious.

But surely there must be some drawbacks? Well, despite my friend's forebodings I failed to find any conclusive evidence of their arrival. If capitalism's young champions do indeed come to Koh Samui to rebuild their stress-shattered lives, then I can only think that they quickly succumb to the tropical torpor and begin to look and behave just like everybody else.

## TRAVEL NOTES

Travel companies: A number of the leading tour operators now include Koh Samui in their brochures. A two-week package from Speedbird (tel: 01-741 8041), which includes air travel from London, four nights at a hotel in Bangkok and accommodation at The Imperial, Koh Samui, costs £2850. A similar package at Tongyai Bay is £2915. People wishing to rent an inexpensive beachfront bungalow generally do so on arrival. This way

you can choose the one you like the look of best. The likelihood of all the accommodation being full is remote. The Tourist Office in Na Thon will be glad to help. Climate: The weather on Koh Samui is less predictable than in Phuket, but generally speaking, the driest, sunniest, least humid months are from February to August. Guidebooks: *Thailand, a travel survival kit*, Lonely Planet Publications, £5.95, contains useful information about Koh Samui and southern Thailand in general.

## OUT AND ABOUT

## Everybody's stately home

Nigel Andrew visits Standen House in West Sussex, a rambling Victorian family home, which was built by a man who took pride in the commonplace

ALAN WELLS

Standen is just the house to visit if you feel you have had enough of stately homes for a while. It is the very opposite of the grand ancestral pile with its imperious architectural gestures and awe-inducing interiors.

Standen is the work of a man who said he was never satisfied with a design until it began to look commonplace. Here he aimed to give the impression of an accidental grouping of buildings, something which had evolved over many years, not one man's big idea. Perhaps that is why Standen feels so much like home, the sort of place one would cheerfully move into, given half a chance.

The architect was Philip Webb, a lifelong friend and associate of William Morris, and Standen is the only late work of his to have survived unaltered: it was built between 1892 and 1894. Webb was building on the site of an old farmstead, and typically he not only kept close to the original layout of the buildings, but even retained the ancient Hollybush Farmhouse. It is now linked to Webb's own buildings by an arch, through which you approach the front door of Standen.

It is not an imposing entrance front: it was never intended to be. The south front, at the other side, is scarcely more impressive, with its row of gables and its prospect tower. Webb was aiming for a rambling, organic look, and he built a house for living in, not for gazing at open-mouthed.

In the good old arts and crafts tradition, he used a variety of local materials and traditional techniques — stone from the nearby hillsides, tile-hanging and weatherboarding, bricks from Horsham. Over the rather steeply pitched, red-tiled roof, unusually tall chimneys rise, one of them, now leaning at an alarming angle — a consequence of the October hurricane, which also



Home sweet home: Standen with its conservatory, red tiled roofs, tall chimneys and panoramic views of the countryside took away many of Standen's trees.

This house was built as a family home, and it still has the feel of one. The family were the Beales — James, a successful solicitor, his artistic wife Margaret, and their children, of whom two daughters lived at the house long after their parents' death. As a result Standen was kept almost entirely unchanged right through to 1972, when Helen Beale bequeathed it to the National Trust. It is now one of its few Victorian properties of great architectural interest. James Beale's portrait avers its eyes from the green baize in the Standen billiards room. He looks as though he is

wondering where all the money went: but this house was worth every penny. The rooms are wonderfully light, uncluttered and airy — in complete contrast to the standard idea of Victorian interior design. White panelling lines the walls, except in the dining room, where the digestion is eased by a restful bluish green. The simplicity of these interiors is offset by the controlled sumptuousness of William Morris textiles and wallpapers, the intense turquoise and vermilion hues of William de Morgan pottery, patterned tiles, glowing carpets, blue and white china, and furniture tending towards the neo-Georgian — some of it

inlaid with an extravagance very far from early arts and crafts ideals. The line of the walls is broken by niches, bays and cosy little alcoves. Even the light fittings are exquisitely wrought: this house was lit by electricity from the start, and main rooms centrally heated. It was a home in which beauty and comfort were to mingle on equal terms. Like all good houses of its period, it has a fine conservatory, with a roof of the most elaborate construction, and a flourishing plumbago. The garden and the countryside beyond can be seen in spectacular panoramas from many parts of the house —

views worthy of Webb's large and frequent windows. It is not quite the garden Webb would have wanted, but I loved it. The airy hillside site, bordering fields and woods, the odd little enclosed lawns, the clipped hedges and "olde English" beds, grass alleys and secluded benches — it is easy to imagine the Beales at their leisure here. And very easy to daydream a Standen idyll of one's own. This is, quite unaffectedly, a happy place.

Standen, near East Grinstead, West Sussex, is open till the end of October, Wed-Sun 1.30-5.30pm (last admission 5pm). Admission £2.40, children £1.20. Tel: 0342-23028.

## OUTINGS

Walesley Register Annual Car Rally: Local road run today, display tomorrow. Also gathering of period and classic cars, caravans, chainmaking demonstrations, model railway and Shire horse wagon rides. Avenor Museum of Buildings, Stoke Heath, Bromsgrove, Worcestershire (0527 31888). Today, tomorrow 11am-5.30pm. Adult £1.90, Child 95p. Car park free.

Regley Hall's 30th Birthday Party: An extravaganza of music, drama, traditional arts and crafts displays and demonstrations. Tomorrow afternoon, "The Archers of Arbridge" cricket team is in action. Regley Hall, Alcester, Warwickshire (0789 76209). Today, tomorrow 11am-5.30pm. Adult £2.90, Child 1.50.

Eastbourne Maritime Sunday: In the morning sand castle competitions, treasure hunts, Punch and Judy. Supervised free dinghy sailing. Afternoon long distance swimming race, Lifeguard and Lifesaver demonstrations. RNLI Songs of Praise in the evening. The Beach, between bandstand and Wish Tower, Eastbourne, East Sussex. Tomorrow 11am to early evening. Free.

Dotting Steam and Transport Rally: Traction and showmen's steam engines, veteran vintage cars, buses and motorcycles. Craft and automobile stands. Kent County Agricultural Society Showground, Detling, near Maidstone, Kent. Today, tomorrow, 10am to late afternoon. Adult £1.50, accompanied child free. Car park free.

Celebration of Yorkshire Abbeys: Craft and flower show, stories and musical entertainment by Gynnewood plus this evening only. Colby, early English, medieval and folk tales with the company of storytellers. Whitby Abbey, Whitby, North Yorkshire (0947 603588). Today, tomorrow 2.30pm-5pm. Adult £2, Child £1. This evening 7.30pm onwards (take rugs, cushions etc). Admission £2.

Medieval Jousting Tournament: Spectacular costumed display mounted by the Nottingham Jousting Association. Also archery displays by the Bowmen of Bosworth and a musical parade. Refreshments. Bosworth Battlefield Visitor Centre, Sutton Cheney, Market Bosworth, Leicestershire (0455 290429). Tomorrow 11am-6pm. Tournament 2pm. Adult £2.50, Child 5-15 £1, under-5s free.

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## THE TIMES COOK

## Let's go alfresco

DIANA LEADSBETTER

That gloriously hot Saturday a couple of weeks ago was too good to spend in London. We invited ourselves to friends who have a garden with a sheltered sun-lit terrace which makes a wonderful open-air dining room. And yes, the weather held, and we ate outside. It was an entirely unplanned dinner party, and one of the best we can ever remember.

We pooled our resources, Margaret and I, and shared the cooking. Amazingly, our refrigerators produced complementary ingredients. For starters, we had her bag of mixed salad leaves dressed in walnut oil with the antipasto, really excellent salami and prosciutto ready sliced from Marks & Spencer which I had bought for the first time. The Milano was good, the Felino even better. With that, we served slices of mozzarella cheese, less good, it has to be said, and sweet tomatoes, also from Marks & Spencer, with shredded basil from Waitrose, since neither of us had particularly prolific basil plants this year.

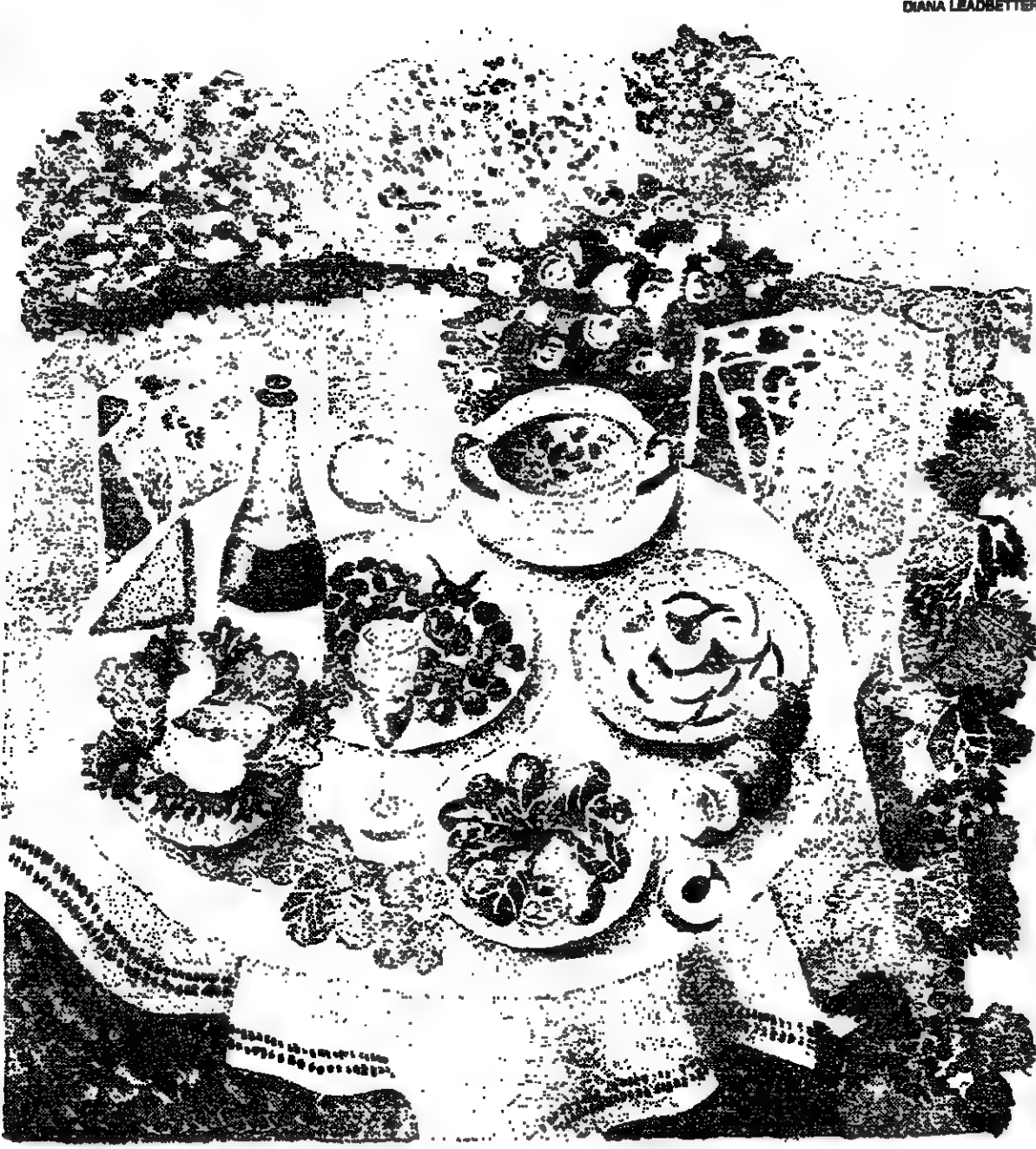
The main course was a splendid 3lb guard of honour (double rack of lamb) from the specialist butcher counter at Waitrose. I sat it on a bed of lavender, roasted it at maximum heat for 30 minutes, and then let it rest for 20 minutes. Home-grown runner beans and new potatoes — coated in plenty of finely chopped parsley — and a pot of wild service berry jelly, a souvenir of a previous visit to our friends, were served with the tender pink lamb. Pudding was a platter of chilled cherries and a bowl of blueberries and peaches that I had bought at Budgen which I sliced into a syrup of Muscat wine and fresh passion fruit, while Margaret made a sauce of fresh raspberries.

The whole meal had been easy to shop for, and we did not start to prepare it until 7.45 in the evening. Here are some more easy-to-prepare recipes for an impromptu dinner, to eat indoors or out, based on the sort of food you might have in your refrigerator and larder.

The soup is based on a deliciously refreshing one I ate in Bangkok. There it was served with fresh crab meat stirred into it. If you can't get fresh crab, some shelled prawns or small, peeled brown shrimp, added at the last moment, are almost as good. Heat the soup if the weather is cold.

**Chilled cucumber and ginger soup** (serves 4)  
1 large cucumber  
1 tablespoon sea salt  
3 spring onions  
1 tablespoon light oil such as groundnut or sunflower  
1 1/2 inch/2.5 cm chunk peeled fresh ginger or 1/2 teaspoon ground ginger  
1/2 pint/280 ml water  
1 pint/570 ml half cream  
grated zest of 1/2 lime or lemon  
pinch paprika or cayenne  
1 lb/110g peeled prawns, shrimps or crabmeat

Roughly chop the cucumber and place it in a colander. Sprinkle with the sea salt, and set it to drain over a bowl for 30 minutes. Trim away any damaged outer leaves from the spring onions and slice, using the white part and a little of the green only. Fry gently in the oil until wilted. If using fresh ginger, grate it or shred it in with the onion, or stir in the powdered ginger. Cook for a minute or two longer. Rinse the cucumber, and place it in a blender or food processor. Add all the liquid, the lime or lemon zest and the



Frances Bissell with some simple recipes for an impromptu dinner party for one of those rare balmy summer evenings

ginger and spring onions. Process until smooth. Sieve if you wish and serve chilled with a sprinkling of paprika or cayenne and the shellfish. My next recipe is a less rich version of those hot little parcels of chicken oozing buttery, garlicky juices. These ooze pleasingly with melting strings of mozzarella cheese. Use the best chicken you can find, free-range if available.

**Surprise chicken** (serves 4)  
4 chicken breasts  
1/2 oz/15g unsalted butter  
2 to 3 cloves garlic, peeled and chopped  
1 tablespoon fresh tarragon  
1/2 teaspoon sea salt  
1 lb/110g mozzarella cheese  
2 tablespoons white wine or vermouth  
2 to 3 tablespoons water

Remove the fillet (the loose spear-shaped piece of meat) from each chicken breast and set aside for another dish. With a sharp knife, carefully slice each breast horizontally, down one edge without cutting right through and then open it out flat. Heat the butter in a frying pan, and when brown, fry the inside of

the opened out chicken breasts. Once sealed, remove from the pan. Crush the garlic and tarragon with the salt, and spread on the inside of each chicken breast. Thinly slice the mozzarella, and lay the slices inside each breast. Secure closed with cocktail sticks. Fry the chicken breasts on each side for about 5 to 8 minutes. Serve immediately with the pan juices poured over them.

If we had had fresh sardines or other small fish that evening, we would have wrapped them in the vine leaves which grow on our friends' terrace, and baked them in a roasting tin with olive oil and sea salt. Herrings, mackerel and red mullet can also be cooked this way. Fresh vine leaves make a marvellous wrapping for small pieces of meat cooked in the same way, chicken or guinea fowl breasts for example. If you use vacuum packed vine leaves, which are a good store cupboard standby, soak them in water for 20 minutes to wash out some of the brine. Bake the fish in lettuce leaves as an alternative.

**Sardines in vine leaves** (serves 4 to 6)  
12 sardines  
2 to 3 dozen vine leaves, depending on size  
2 to 3 tablespoons mustard  
salt, pepper  
6 tablespoons extra virgin olive oil

Make sure the scales are removed from the sardines. Blanch the vine leaves in boiling water for two minutes, refresh them under cold water and pat them dry. Spread a little mustard on each sardine and season lightly. Wrap each sardine in vine leaves and arrange them in a single layer in a lightly oiled oven-proof dish. Sprinkle the rest of the olive oil over the parcels and bake in a moderately hot oven for about 25 minutes. Serve hot, cold or perhaps, best of all, just tepid with slices of sweet onion and tomato.

**Nectarines in lime honey** (serves 4)  
4 tablespoons water  
4 tablespoons clear honey  
1 lime  
1 lb/455g nectarines

Put the water and the honey in a small saucepan. Grate in the lime zest, and squeeze the juice into the pan. Bring to the boil and stir until well mixed. Slice the nectarines into a bowl, peeled or not, as you wish, and pour on the warm syrup. Refrigerate until required.

## DRINK

## Toast of the ball

Armagnac is making a comeback. Jane MacQuitty reports

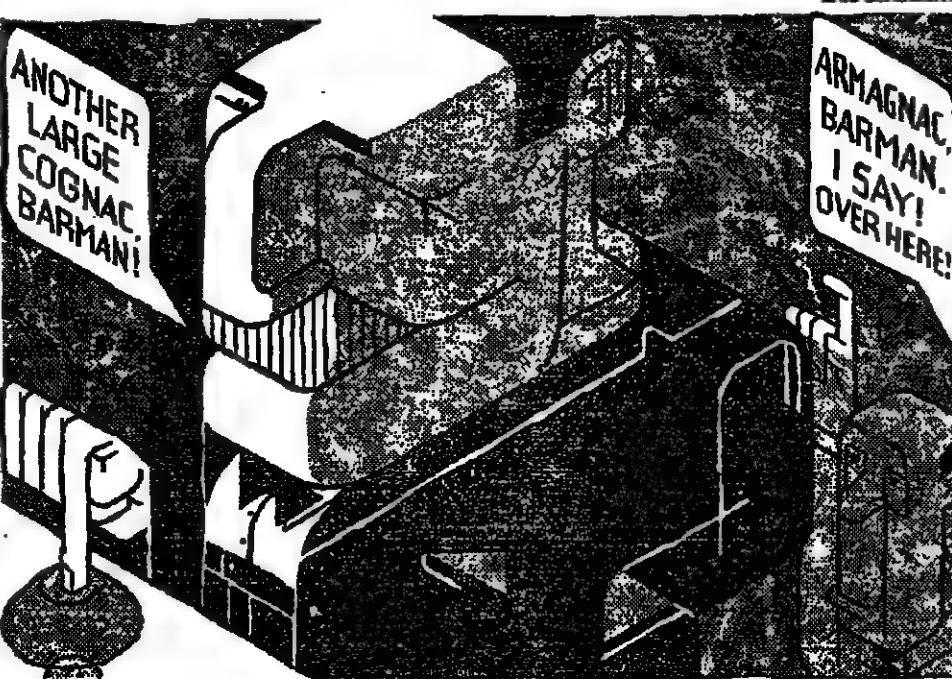
Our old armagnac. Like Cinderella it appeared, then, after a sudden surge of popularity in the early 1980s, the kind, at long last, been invited to the Brandy Ball. Since then, however, armagnac's sales in this country have remained depressingly stationary.

Compared to the paltry 17,000 cases of armagnac that were exported to the United Kingdom in 1980, last year's total of around 50,000 cases looked decidedly rosy. But armagnac sales have danced around that figure for the past three years and trade insiders are convinced that, for the time being, this unique, aromatic and earthy brandy has peaked here.

From my taste buds' viewpoint, I have always found it hard to understand why armagnac should retain its Cinderella status, when a digestif glass of this walnut, prune and violet scented brown-black brandy often offers so much more character and flavour than cognac and the other brandies. On reflection, I think it is precisely armagnac's gutsy, full-flavoured style that has put the Great British Public's palate off.

What a pity. The French, happily for the Armagnacs, have never considered flavour to be a dirty word, whether it be in their glass or on their plate, and sales of armagnac are therefore greater in France than in the UK. Apart from, arguably, an enhanced flavour, armagnac also has a qualitative advantage over its arch rival, cognac, situated north of Bordeaux while it lies 80 miles to the south.

Unlike sophisticated, popular, well-travelled cognac, Armagnac, buried in quiet, rural,



land-locked Gascony, has a much more rustic, primitive image and method of production. What was once deemed, by the now deeply commercially minded and industrially inclined Cognacais, to be armagnac's greatest problem has evolved into this brandy's biggest advantage. Several factors separate the pungent delights of the oldest brandy in France, armagnac, from the softer, subtler charms of cognac; its two centuries junior rival. So is an important aspect: Gascony's soils are a combination of sand and clay, rather than the classy clink of Cognac, and the armagnac region is divided into three distinctly different areas, Bas-Armagnac, closest to the Atlantic, then Ténarize in the centre, grided by the Haut-Armagnac which has now become better known for table wine not armagnac. The grape varieties grown in Armagnac differ slightly too from those grown in Cognac. True, the Ugni Blanc still accounts for the vast majority of vines grown in both regions but a higher percentage of the flowery Felle Blanche and Colombar grapes are grown in Armagnac. Armagnac's black veined, supple Moslem oak again differs from the wood used to mature cognac, but the most important differences between the two is the distilling methods used. Cognac (and malt whisky) use a refined double distillation method, which takes place in a pot still. Armagnac is produced rather more rustic and traditionally in a continuous copper still, known as the alembic armagnacais, a form of still that can be transported round the region, and which yields a heavier, earthier spirit that takes longer to soften and mature. Since 1972 the Armagnacais have, continuing, been

allowed to use either distilling method to produce armagnac. Those in favour of the new pot still method of lighter, faster-maturing armagnacs argue that they have both a price and taste advantage over the older, gutsier method. It is still far too early to tell whether the delicate pot still style will eventually be deemed superior. My guess is that the simplistic flavours of pot still armagnac will lose out to the traditionalists, and rightly so.

From a commercial and quality viewpoint, armagnac has some useful ammunition which its arch rival does not: single estate and single vintage armagnacs. Cognac by law, due presumably to its unpolite size, is not allowed to bottle the better and its producers mostly cannot be bothered with the former. Cognac's loss has been armagnac's gain.

Oddly, quick to pick up the wine or spirit gamut that other merchants are afraid to touch, aim to cash in on this. Courageously they have just launched a new baker's dozen of armagnacs, nine of which are new.

I tasted these blind, and in second place — proving the single estate point — came the delicious, 10-year-old Domaine de Pechat, a single vineyard estate wine, whose spicy, flowery scent, backed up by a fine nutty flavour, is excellent value at £12.99. In third place was a single vintage armagnac of the R.A. Salas 1973, whose spicy, gingery bouquet and palate agentry provides a pleasant glassful (£16.99). Top of the tasting came the 1974 Domaine de Moeche from Jumeaux whose walnuts and violets scent, backed up by a rich velvety palate, is everything a great armagnac and a great brandy should be (£32.99).

## GARDENING

## Seeking sanctuary with the Cambridge greens

CLARE ROBERTS

Cambridge at this time of year is flooded with visitors, but a pilgrim seeking refreshing green shade has only to cross the canal-like waterway at Hobson's conduit to the south of the town and go through the handsome wrought iron gates into the Cambridge University Botanic Gardens for a feast of horticultural diversity.

Large trees around the boundary give peace and seclusion, and trees and shrubs within the gardens divide the level land into a series of interesting sub-gardens which absorb visitors, so there is rarely any sense of overcrowding. A little stream straddled by plank bridges invites you to inspect the plants on its far banks, such as the dramatic species lobelias. There is a water garden crossed by stepping stones, a scented garden, ecological beds with regionally rare plants, and a reconstructed limestone pavement.

The Reverend John Henslow, who was the moving spirit in establishing the gardens on their present site in 1844, saw it as an ornament to the city as well as an instrument of science. When the gardens were extended to a spacious 40 acres, John Gilmour, who was director from 1951 to 1973, reserved a private five acres for botanical research and experiment, but also initiated new gardens which have become favourites with visitors.

The scheme of chronological beds, showing which plants were grown through the different periods of history, attracts huge attention, while the new winter garden with its dogwoods, willows and fragrant honeysuckles is also a popular feature.

Plans are now well on their way for the Gilmour Building which will house exhibitions and other activities to extend appreciation of plants, botany and horticulture. Nearly half the funds for this enterprise have been found and it is hoped the centre will open next summer, the remaining sum being raised by appeal.

The main event this year has been the reopening of the tropical glasshouses. The new building — in airy, cream-painted steel and aluminium — has been designed to match into the existing network of teal-built 19th century glasshouses so that doors which take you from modern to old buildings also give you passage from tropical to semi-tropical and temperate plant zones.

Although it is a small house compared with Kew, it in-



cludes examples of economic importance in a roughly ecological arrangement. There are also small specialist collections. Plant material for these houses has been drawn over the years from collectors and other botanical gardens.

The Cambridge Botanic Gardens is home to several national collections among them the "elephant cacti" (*Pereskia* spp.) and *Argemone* (*argemone* spp.) and European fritillaries. Its tulip collection is the only one in Britain to survive from an earlier government attempt to establish special collections of particular plants. The Botanic Garden is one of the best places for species geraniums. There is a range of scented-leaved kinds in one of the cool glasshouses where a self-sown plant of the rare endemic Canary Island geranium also flourishes. Outside, there is a very full range of the hardy species.

The Madeiran geranium (*Geranium madrense*) is a

rarity beginning to be grown by gardeners. It is a large striking plant, its bold finely cut leaves held on long leaf-stalks from a stout red stem. It is monocarpic, which means that it dies after it has flowered (unless it makes a sub-shoot from the stem). It produces seed fairly readily, especially if bees have access to the plant. The Botanic Garden's taxonomist, the geranium expert Dr Peter Yeo, advises that seed is collected as it ripens in early summer, stored in a dry place, and sown in autumn.

The young plants make an unusual amount of growth during the winter, and should be fed and moved on into bigger pots several times. His experience is that in our climate they respond best when treated as a biennial pot plant. In the first year they make a handsome foliage plant and they flower the following spring or early summer. The flower buds will be apparent by the end of January in its flowering year. This is not a hardy geranium, so it must go into a slightly heated greenhouse or conservatory for the winter.

## WEEKEND TIPS

● Sow *schizanthus* (butterfly flower or poor-man's orchid) to flower in pots next year (min temperature 61°F/16°C).  
● Prune lan-trained nectarines and peach trees. Take shoots which have borne fruit back to replacement shoots.  
● Prepare the ground if you intend sowing a lawn this year, remove weeds and hoe. Thin out greenhouse grapes.  
● Take cuttings from green (non-flowering) shoots. Once rooted, overwinter at not less than 50°F/10°C.  
● Keep a close watch for aphids and caterpillars on brassica plants. Remove them by hand at the first signs and you will avoid trouble later.

## Francesca Greenoak

● The Cambridge University Botanic Garden is about 3/4 mile south of the city on the A10 Trumpington Road. Open weekdays 8am-4pm during the summer, 8am-4pm in winter. Sundays 2.30-6.30pm. Glasshouses open all year, 11am-12.30pm and 2-4pm. (Donations for the Gilmour Appeal payable to the University of Cambridge, The Botanic Garden, Cory Lodge, Bateman Street, Cambridge.)

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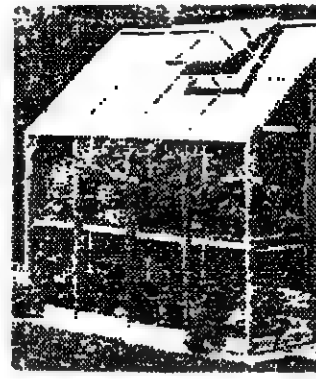
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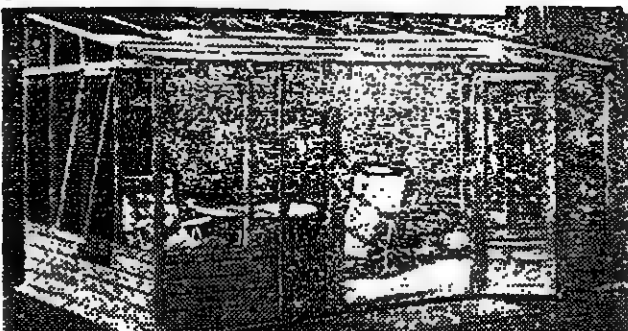
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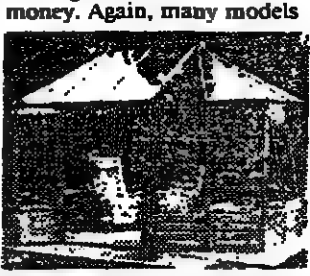


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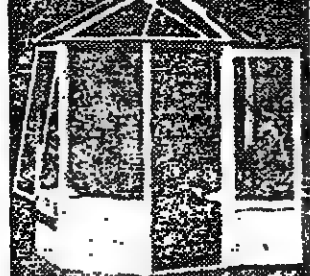


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## THE ARTS

## TELEVISION

## Nice chap, pity about the films

Herschell Gordon Lewis has now made a fortune selling those spectacularly tasteless "collectors' plates" that are advertised in colour supplements. Twenty years ago, however, he aspired to wealth and won his place in history by a more daring venture in the field of aesthetic degradation, the production of very bad horror films.

In *The Incredibly Strange Film Show* (Channel 4), Jonathan Ross introduced us to the charming man whose movies were too disgusting ever to be passed by the British censor. They went down a bomb in the drive-ins of southern America, screened in the presence of phoney nurses and trailed by dire warnings that those with weak hearts should leave the theatre immediately.

The programme tried to illustrate the interviews with clips from such classics as *Blood Feast*, *Colour Me Blood Red* or *She Devils on Wheels*, sequences which should have featured disembowelling, dismemberment, cannibalism and worse, but were obliged to cut away as soon as the going got gory.

Verbal descriptions alone testified to the appeal of the famous tongue-ripping scene, which ended with a dangle lamb's organ and an actress spitting strawberry jam (with chunks in it).

Production values in these films were not high. "The acting is best described as primitive," Ross ventured. "I think that's a euphemism," the lovable rogue replied. Maturity and veneration by film buffs had done nothing to dull his sense of humor.

The devil still has the best times, the best worst movies and, alas, the most articulate intellectuals. *Right Talk* (Channel 4) should have carried a Government health warning — it must surely damage the Government's health to reveal the strange species which swim around its think tanks. Only Judge Michael Argyle could have been accused of concise, logical expression in this shapeless, overheated and disappointingly negative debate on the obligation of citizenship. The only point of agreement was that the Sixties in general and people like Gordon Lewis in particular have a lot to answer for.

Celia Brayfield

## The success story so far

In a year which has already seen the collapse of *Carrie*, *Winnie*, of *Chess* on Broadway, and now *Ziegfeld* under death sentence in the West End, the fact has to be faced that, insofar as there is a British musical theatre still buoyant, it is Andrew Lloyd Webber. Webber is only 40, and his first musical hit with Tim Rice, *Joseph & The Amazing Technicolour Dreamcoat* is 21. In the two intervening decades, with or without Rice, Lloyd Webber has had one musical flop (*Jeeves*, written with Alan Ayckbourn and well worth another look) and six marathon hits (*Jesus Christ Superstar*, *Evita*, *Cats*, *Song and Dance*, *Starlight Express* and *Phantom of the Opera*). He need never work again.

Luckily, he cannot imagine any kind of a life away from the musical theatre, and that more than anything else explains his separation from Rice. "Tim is a brilliantly talented lyricist with a real fear of being extended by a show to the point of inconvenience. He really does now seem to find musicals too much trouble and too much work, but if they don't occupy you obsessively for 24 hours a day, then you can't do them. The morning after *Phantom* opened in London two years ago, I read the reviews, and realized that my wife, Sarah, would be working in it that night and therefore I'd have no one to dine with. So I went to work on the next show."

"In America it has always been traditional for directors and composers and lyricists to have first production meetings on their next project the morning after a first night, in order to overcome bad reviews or avoid relaxing on good ones. That seems admirable."

The show that has occupied Lloyd Webber since *Phantom*, two years ago, is *Aspects of Love*, a musical of the David Garnett novel of 1955 about a quintet of inter-related lovers in the South of France. Thus far, the musical has been seen only by an audience of 50 or so invited guests at Lloyd Webber's summer Sydmonston Festival, but on that work-in-progress evidence it is a remarkable and lyrical love story situated somewhere halfway between *Gigi* and *Les Liaisons Dangereuses*. The plan now is for Trevor Nunn to start directing a cast which may well include Albert Finney, for a West End premiere somewhere around next April.



Lloyd Webber: "Musicals are the most difficult thing in the theatre to get right, they don't work to formulae"

Andrew Lloyd Webber talks to Sheridan Morley about the British musical, and his next project, *Aspects of Love*

"It was given to Tim Rice by someone who wanted to make a film of it; that never happened, so Tim and I began around the time of *Evita* trying, without much success, to get to grips with it as a musical. I couldn't really do it at all until, with *Requiem* and then *Phantom*, I found a way of writing for fully operatic voices rather than pure chest singers. In the meantime Tim gave it up, and then around the time of *Cats* I tried it again with Trevor Nunn and that really didn't work either. Finally I had the idea of bringing together Charlie Hart, with whom I'd written *Phantom*, and Don Black, with whom I'd written *Tell Me on a Sunday*. Somehow that combination did work out."

Coming after *Phantom* and *Cats*, the first thing noticeable about *Aspects of Love* is its sheer intimacy, distinguishing it from the spectacular shows of the past.

"I've always wanted to change direction sharply after each score:

*Jeeves* was a totally English reaction to the biblical enormity of *Superstar*, and after the Eva Peron story I deliberately chose a totally anonymous heroine for *Tell Me on a Sunday*. It's no good repeating yourself. Because we've had a 'marvellous decade with *Cats* and *Phantom*, everyone suddenly thought that musicals must be easy if I could do them, so then we got a year of *Carrie* and *Winnie*. The truth is that musicals are the most difficult thing in the theatre to get right, and that they don't work to any formula."

"*Aspects of Love* is like mercury; every time you read it again you realize there's something that has somehow slipped through the score, which is one that I've been working on periodically for a decade. I even got one song, 'Married Man', recorded privately by Sarah (Brightman), but we never released it because I was going through my divorce from the first Sarah at the time, and the

lawyers thought it might be construed as tasteless."

So I used the theme for "Music of the Night" in *Phantom*, and I had to work the high romanticism of that score out of my system before I could really come to terms with the more complex and cynical *Aspects of Love*.

Garnett himself was really the old man in the book and also the boy; so you have a sort of double-autobiography about a man obsessed by cats and wine and girls, though I'd rather not explore that analogy in too much more detail.

"Our main problems now are finding the right theatre and a central cast of five, ranging from a girl of 12 to a man of 78: there is a missing generation in the British musical theatre, singers and dancers who were already too old to benefit from the revolution that

Gillian Lynne — who is still the most underrated choreographer in the business — wrought with *Cats*. That was when we learnt we could sing and dance and challenge Broadway, but it wasn't until 10 years ago.

"Audiences now have learned to live with the operatic form. Indeed, opera has been the one great growth area in the London theatre over the past few months. Continuous music is, thank God, no longer any kind of a barrier. We've sold two million albums of *Phantom*, and if you still think that's a scenery epic, look at its last 20 minutes, where there are only three characters and virtually no staging of any kind. There's intimacy in that, too."

*Aspects of Love* represents an altogether different kind of challenge to its box-office: the book remains very little-known outside its original Bloomsbury readership, and one *South Bank Show* of over a decade ago, and its last line ("Hand me the wine and the dice, and perish the thought of tomorrow") is not the usual kind of finale.

"We're asking a lot, and we're in unknown territory: but it's surprising how far you can take an audience with you if you lead them into a show gently."

The whole beginning of *Cats* is a mock fugue, but if anybody ever realized that, I would have failed at my job. Before that show, people thought the British were terminally incapable of doing musicals, and that Tim and I had been a lucky kind of aberration: now perceptions have changed.

"If you are, like me, terminally in love with the musical theatre, then of course you have to worry about its future on both sides of the Atlantic. There is no real rivalry: if there had been, we wouldn't have won seven Tony awards with *Phantom*. The Equity row over Sarah's admission was unfortunate, but we knew that we really hadn't got a show without her, because that kind of European vulnerability just doesn't seem to exist on Broadway."

"But, just as she was perfect for Christine, so she'd be wildly unsuitable for *Aspects of Love* and luckily she was the first to realize that. Her plan now is to film the Jessie Matthews story, and then maybe we'll get together again on a stage musical after that. But for the next year at least, it's all *Aspects*."

## EDINBURGH FESTIVAL

## CONCERT

USSR  
SO/Svetlanov  
Usher Hall

There was a sense of despair outside the Usher Hall last evening the busking violinist moved from his usual spot, avoid being trampled on by the long queue awaiting turns. British audiences are not used to playing like this. Critical superlatives can, conversely, reduce the credit of the excellence they set a describe. But the State Orchestra of the USSR under Yevgeny Svetlanov is continuing to performances of discipline, innovation and insight to the Festival. Thursday was the top Svetlanov's own speciality, Prokofiev. He artfully chose *Pathétique*, not the Fifth, but frequently shunned Third, just as he had done Rachmaninov First two ago, set out to persuade listeners to re-examine responses.

Because Svetlanov has a sound, and deeply respect understanding of Tchaikovsky every inventive move, the never any need for the interpretive imposition which often makes melodramatic composer's natural dramatic instinct. Warmth of phrasing created first from truthful melodic contour; a *forte* point is less a matter of dynamism than of many, many.

Knowing there is nothing persuasive as a virtuoso performance of lightweight music, Svetlanov preceded the Tchaikovsky by a reading of Prokofiev's "Classical" Symphony which, in its own wit, an Glinka's little Symphony on Russian Themes.

At the start of the concert he revealed the sensitivity of St. Kovich's arrangement of Prokofiev's *Khorovodichina* over and at the start of the day compatriots, the Shostakovich Quartet, had honoured the poser no less in performance second and third quartets confirmed the revelatory nature their continuing cycle.

Hilary Fh

# THE SUNDAY TIMES

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# TOMORROW

## Complex drama of lust in the dust

LONDON THEATRE

Oedipus  
Almeida

This is not the majestic original by Sophocles, but the Latin adaptation by Seneca, when omens, witchcraft and a fascination with drooling ghosts had become an essential part of the cultural scene.

Donald Sumpter's production for the RSC uses only five actors, who come together to speak the Chorus passages; and John Shrapnel plays Oedipus and the Messenger who comes on near the end to describe exactly how Oedipus has been blinding himself.

The cast never leave the stage, brightly lit but with dust hanging in the air, the impure air of Thebes. The curving brickwork behind them could be a sun-washed Mediterranean wall.

Seneca's version makes two long additions to the Sophocles, both of them appealing to the lurid tastes of his day. Tiresias (Trevor Martin) is presented as ignorant of Oedipus's future and must find it the entrails of a heifer. This is the function of his daughter, Manto (Sally George), to be his eyes and describe the sacrifice in flesh-creeping detail.

Her speaking of Ted Hughes's gritty and gory translation constructs a picture in our minds but can never deepen our concern for Oedipus. The rituals lie outside the possibility of our belief and

Motherly love: Julie Legrand and John Shrapnel in Seneca's *Oedipus*

nothing Hughes can make of Seneca's anatomical rhetoric allows us just to sit back and rest on the poetry.

The second addition is the conjuring up of dead Laius to name his murderer, and this is a dramatic miscalculation that fatally reduces Oedipus's stature from heroic questioner to victim of an internal copper's mark. Creon describes the ghost, but Phil Daniels speaks Creon in an unattractively flat and colourless voice, as though unfamiliar with the resonance of his words. It is a dull delivery that contrasts with the rage he imparts to Laius, but this is too heavy a price to pay.

Shrapnel's presence has a fierce intelligence. He is a man who could wield power without dis-

tress, and his voice cleaves the like a flashing spear, or grinds a rasp against opposition. As is not Sophocles, there is no for it to be a plane or d something that goes on and on the same important point yields. Interestingly, there is a curve to a fuller awareness than words let on.

Julie Legrand's delicate enunciation of the lines where explores feelings of tenderness a long-lost son provides the pl one expression of genuine to feeling (it is not in Sophocles). production of this rarity turns to be an interesting experience but not a profound one.

Jeremy Kingston

## The glory of the laud

PROMENADE  
CONCERT

St Matthew Passion  
Albert Hall/Radio 3

Amid the controversy caused by Mr Scorsese's celluloid crucifixion, it should not be forgotten how tolerant the faithful sometimes are, or perhaps were. Bach wrote his *St Matthew Passion*, for instance, for a Lutheran stronghold on its most solemn day, yet he was allowed incredible interpretive leeway. Half the work is not "Gospel truth" at all, but a highly-charged, subjective Pietist gloss on the Passion story by Picander.

It is this contemplative element which makes the *St Matthew* so difficult to pace and sustain. That problem was triumphantly solved in this superb performance.

The quality of the solo singing and instrumental playing certainly

helped. Anthony Rolfe-Johnson was in matchless form as the Evangelist; Olaf Bar and Cornelius Hauptmann lavished great care on the bass arias; and also outstanding was the counter-tenor Michael Chance, who combined with Elizabeth Wilcock's sensuous violin obligato to produce an "Erbarme dich" of great dignity. Andreas Schmidt still sounded too

lightweight to be an authoritative Christus, but his pleasant timbre suited the sinuous, delicate instrumental textures of the Eng Baroque Soloists.

John Eliot Gardiner's bi-dance-like way with some choruses, replete with characteristic changes to staccato articulation, came as no real surprise; did his generally rather astute treatment of the chorales, especially the superbly alien sponse of the Monteverdi Ch. Some crucial passages still are too matter-of-fact in treatment, notably the "Is it I?" sequel. But other dramatic moments were seized on vividly.

Richard Morris



## CHESS

## Deadly rivals

As I write, Gary Kasparov, Anatoly Karpov and Valery Salov are involved in a tremendous struggle to determine who will be the strongest ever Soviet Chess Champion. This year, the championship was a mammoth 18 player all-play-all tournament, where great masters such as Smyslov, Jussupov, Vaganian, Beliavsky and Sokolov were to be found further down the lists.

With the championship three quarters over, a tie between those deadly and perennial rivals, Kasparov and Karpov seemed a perfectly plausible result. Would it not be a delicious irony if these two, who have contested no less than 120 match games for the world title, were now obliged to play yet another match to resolve the championship of their home country?

This week's game is a typically crisp and incisive effort by the World Champion against one of the lesser lights in the championship. White: G. Kasparov; Black: I. Smirnin; USSR Championship, Moscow, August 1988. King's Indian Defence.

1 Nf3 Nf6 2 d4 e6 3 e4 d5 4 Qd2 Qd7 5 Qc3 Qc6 6 Nc3 Nc6 7 Bg5

Recognized as one of the main lines of the King's Indian Defence, the variation on the board indicates that White will strive to seize the initiative on the Queen's side while Black will seek to strike back on the other wing.

A more vigorous prosecution of White's Queen's side offensive than was seen in the earlier game Karpov-Kasparov (Game 17) from their match for the world championship in Seattle last year. At that time Karpov proceeded more cautiously with 10 b3 c5 11 a3 Ne8 12 Rb1 f5 and only now 13 b4, the key move of the White advance.

10... Nf6 11 Nf1 12 Nf3 13 Nf4 14 Nf5 15 Nf6 16 Nf7 17 Nf8 18 Nf9 19 Nf10 20 Nf11

Having established dominance on the left wing, Kasparov seals up the King's side to reduce possible Black counterattacks in that sector. Smirnin has little choice but to capture en passant, otherwise he would be suffocated with out resistance.

A fine move. Kasparov adapts to the changed situation and prepares to divert his attention to the King's wing. In particular, he wishes to

prevent Black from playing... Bb6.

21... gxf3 22 Rxf3 23 Rf4 24 Rf5 25 Rf6 26 Rf7 27 Rf8 28 Rf9 29 Rf10 30 Rf11

With this move Kasparov dashes any hopes Black might have harboured of achieving a draw by repetition of position. The text prepares a profound pawn sacrifice whereby White switches the decisive field of conflict towards the Black King.

21... Rxf3 22 Rxf3 23 Rf4 24 Rf5 25 Rf6 26 Rf7 27 Rf8 28 Rf9 29 Rf10 30 Rf11

Black snaps at the bait, perhaps in the erroneous belief that Kasparov had overlooked the possibility of this trick.

22... Rxf3 23 Rxf3 24 Rf4 25 Rf5 26 Rf6 27 Rf7 28 Rf8 29 Rf9 30 Rf10 31 Rf11

The only way to unpin, but now Kasparov unleashes a combinational storm which sweeps away Black's lines of defence.

31... Rxf3 32 Rxf3 33 Rf4 34 Rf5 35 Rf6 36 Rf7 37 Rf8 38 Rf9 39 Rf10 40 Rf11

If 37... Qxc4 38 Rxf3 wins or 37... Rxc4 38 Qf7 with a decisive attack.

38... Rxf3 39 Rxf3 40 Rf4 41 Rf5 42 Rf6 43 Rf7 44 Rf8 45 Rf9 46 Rf10 47 Rf11

Kasparov has sacrificed a Knight and now a Rook in most brilliant fashion. Black cannot avoid being checkmated.

48... Rxf3 49 Rxf3 50 Rf4 51 Rf5 52 Rf6 53 Rf7 54 Rf8 55 Rf9 56 Rf10 57 Rf11

Black resigns. If 41... Bg7 42 Qh4+ or 41... Kh7 42 Qf7+ Bg7 43 Bf5+ Kh8 44 Qh5+ Kg8 45 Bf6+ with mate to follow. A wonderful tour de force of creative imagination by the World Champion.

**Raymond Keene**

The World Championship Quarter Final match between Nigel Short and Jon Speelman continues at London's Barbican Centre this week. Pilkington Glass are providing a generous prize fund of £20,000. Tickets, costing £5 per round, can be ordered from 01-638 8891, the Barbican Box Office.

## BRIDGE

## My next trick

Fortelling the future is a tricky business, be it to advise heads of state or forecast the weather. Some years ago *Old Flint's Almanac* scored a lucky double, correctly predicting the greater influence of Strong Pass systems and the growth of bridge on television.

This time my crystal ball has revealed a real surprise: before the end of the century, Pairs events will disappear at world championship level.

Fortune tellers do not explain their predictions, but I am going to do so. Some months ago, Jimmy Ortiz-Patino, the former President of the World Bridge Federation, stated in an interview with Henry Francis, the editor of the *ACBL Bulletin*, that he believed money prizes led to a decline in ethical standards. Later in the same interview he amplified that observation, saying that he had no objection to prestigious events with considerable prize money.

Unfortunately Francis did not pursue this apparent inconsistency. If pressed, I believe Ortiz-Patino would have conceded that his antipathy was directed to Pairs events with money prizes. In my experience, the money is largely irrelevant; the flaw is endemic to the Pairs game. After all, it was in America, where there are no money prizes, that it was thought necessary to introduce closed circuit television to prevent a variety of undesirable practices.

Team match could pass unnoticed at Pairs.

Another flaw in the World Championship Pairs is posed by systems. It may be reasonable in a long match to expect the opposition to spend hours devising a defence to systems of maze-like complexity. In a Pairs contest, it is not. This has been recognized. The unanswerable question is, where do you draw the line?

If, as they probably do, economic considerations preclude more than one World Championship meeting a year, it would surely be better to abolish the World Pairs in favour of an annual Team Championship. It is a pity, because duplicate Pairs introduces some novel considerations which lead to keen play.

Pairs North-South Game Dealer South

Suppose that as South, having imprudently opened the bidding, you arrive in four hearts. West leads the ♠Q, and dummy's ♠K loses to the Ace. The defenders take two diamonds and force you to ruff a third. How would you proceed?

The first thing to appreciate is that at most tables where North will be declarer, one of South's diamonds can be discarded on the third round of spades. If that is the case, you will inevitably make one trick less than the rest of the field. Your only hope of a fair score is to take the backward club finesse. On this hand it would work, which, considering your ill-advised opening bid, is better than you deserve.

Jeremy Flint

## REVIEW

## A taste of honey

## ROCK RECORDS

Womack & Womack: *Conscience* (4th & Broadway BRCD 519). Brian Wilson: *Love and Mercy* (Sire 925 669).

There are days, listening to the new releases, when you think you're never going to hear a real snare-drum again. Does this matter? It's 1988, after all, and by this stage of the sample-and-hold game it might seem merely cloddish to object to push-button music-making. A little while ago, though, it was hard not to feel a sudden glow of agreement with Tom Waits when he said: "If I want a sound, I usually feel better if I've chased it and killed it, skinned it and cooked it."

Cecil and Linda Womack's first album for the 4th & Broadway label is an album of soul music for people bored by the sort of neutered, de-racinated pop purveyed by people like Alexander O'Neal on the one hand, and the mindless excesses of the hip-hop hooligans on the other. Most of the time, *Conscience* evokes a time when honest voices, fine rhythm sections and songs with meaning seemed more important than album-sleeve credits for hair-dressers and accountants.

Although the Womacks were taken up by the British soul audience a couple of seasons back, enjoying popularity with such songs as "Love Wars" and "Strange and Funny", their career has subsequently faltered. *Conscience* represents a return to their best form, reinforcing a belief that the honey-and-sandpaper blend of their voices is as unusual and effective as any of the soul idiom's many man-woman partnerships.

Some of the credit for this renaissance is probably due to Chris Blackwell, their co-producer. The chairman of Island



The Womacks: evoking a time of honest voices, fine rhythm sections and songs with meaning

Records is not generally thought of as a studio *auteur*, but his work with Bob Marley and Grace Jones has always shown an ability to help musicians create rhythm tracks that are at once steamy and sophisticated yet retain a human sense of space that too often gets crowded out in today's computer mixes. Where the temptation to fill every millimetre of multi-track tape is seldom resisted.

The backgrounds to such Womack and Womack songs as "Conscience of My Conscience" and the irresistible "Teardrops", fabricated from acoustic guitars, subtle bass lines and snickering auxiliary percussion, breathe with the sensual nonchalance that is the trademark of Blackwell's best productions.

The Womacks turn in a great deal of admirably soulful singing and several good songs (the exceptions are Linda's vapid "I Am Love" and Cecil's clichéd "Celebrate the World"). To any soul fan who laments the way that the essential emotional legacy of the blues has been squeezed out of contemporary music, this will probably be the most significant album of the year.

Brian Wilson's *Love and Mercy* has been sitting on my turntable for several weeks, enduring the sort of scrutiny

act in roadhouse style as the Robert Cray Band. The rapport he now has with his

## Battle of oinks to sound of Strauss

## CLASSICAL RECORDS

Strauss: *Der Zigeunerbaron* (Schwarzkopf/Gedda/Prey/Kuntz, Philharmonia Orch./Ackermann, EMI CDS 7 69526 (2 CDs)). Veracini/Prochaska/Fischer-Dieskau/Berry, Bavarian Radio Orch./Boskovsky, EMI CDS 7 49231 8 (2 CDs).

In which Barinsky tells what he has been up to these last few years, with disarming Straussian grace.

The young Hermann Prey cuts a nippy military figure as the recruiting officer who comes to recruit a few villagers to help fight the Spaniards. But best of all is Veracini as the pig-farmer Zsupan, using the best of diction and the broadest of accents, but leaving the orchestra to fill in the noises made by his charges.

The Philharmonia Chorus begins by sounding a bit like the ladies and gentlemen from

the D'Oyly Carte, but Ackermann ends by persuading them that this is the most Hungarian of Strauss's operettas.

Maybe it is Julia Varady's Transylvanian upbringing that makes her a much more natural Saffi on the Boskovsky set made in Munich last year. The smoky quality in her soprano gives a touch of authenticity to "O habet achi", the number in which Saffi hands out her gypsy's warning. But elsewhere the Boskovsky battalion cannot compare with the Legge legions.

Josef Prochaska's Barinkay sounds provincial by the side of Gedda, Walter Berry's Zsupan is a bit crude — he includes the vocal oinks — and Fischer-Dieskau's Homonymy, while patrician enough, sounds as though he might have run out of puff by the time he gets to the sunny Spanish shore.

Boskovsky is uncharacteristically heavy-handed in places. But he does give us a fuller account of the score than Ackermann and on the new set the spoken dialogue, mercifully quite brief, is better handled. And EMI's geography has improved: in 1958 *Der Zigeunerbaron* was set "near the Hungarian village of Banat", that at least has now been corrected.

John Higgins

## Smoking gun of a rising star

The Robert Cray Band: *Don't be Afraid of the Dark* (Mercury 834 923-2).

Although with the million-selling *Strong Persuader* Robert Cray has already outstripped every conventional expectation of the career curve of a blues performer, his fifth album, *Don't be Afraid of the Dark*, suggests that he has further to rise yet.

The Memphis Horns, who recently featured at No.1 in the American singles chart on Steve Winwood's *Stax* pastiche, "Roll With It", are much in evidence: shoring up the unrelenting groove of the title track, rising above the choppy minor chords of "Your Secret's Safe with Me" and leading the way on a gorgeous, achingly slow sub-Otis Redding soul lament, "At Last".

There is a touch of the Springsteens in the admirable ballad that Cray, the newly-risen star, still has the same intensely loyal crew gathered around him, and still bills his



Robert Cray: quality control

act in roadhouse style as the Robert Cray Band. The rapport he now has with his

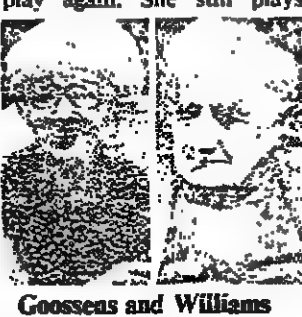
act in roadhouse style as the Robert Cray Band. The rapport he now has with his

## THE TIMES ARTS DIARY

## Getting the hump

Plans for a West End musical based on Victor Hugo's *Hunchback of Notre-Dame* have been scuppered after a bust-up between collaborators Lionel Bart and American director Mark Bramble. Bart has been threatening a production for 25 years, and with a book now written by Victor Spinetti, a few weeks ago he announced he was ready to put it on "tomorrow".

But that was before the rift. Bramble, who wrote *Barnum* and *42nd Street*, will not comment on the row, but a spokesman for Bart yesterday confirmed the project was now "on hold". Bart's is not the only version in the offing. Anderson Enterprises, in Middlesbrough, is planning a rival version and says it has raised £2 million backing; a 31-man company has opened *Quasimodo* on the Edinburgh Fringe; and from Buxton news of a production subtitled *Thank Heavens for Little Gargoyles*.



Goossens and Williams

regularly with the BBC Symphony Orchestra, and in the unlikely event of nerves on the night, she should take comfort from some familiar faces in the audience. Three of the original 16 soloists — Mary Jarred, Dame Eva Turner and Roy Henderson — have promised to be there.

Britain will have just two representatives at the Olympics Arts Festival next month. The London Festival Orchestra, although still in need of sponsorship, will be the sole music group. Dance will be represented by the London Contemporary Dance Theatre, who have raised sponsorship from KCI Korea.

## Ancient angst

The Museums Association, which launches Museums Year in January, is conscientiously keeping a list of new openings, now reckoned to occur once a fortnight. However, there is growing unease in the profession as to how broadly the definition of a museum should be drawn. Among openings next year, for example, are the Rowntrees' Chocolate Experience and the National Baking Museum. St John Stimson, keeper of the award-winning Museum of the Home, in Pembroke, is particularly incensed by Manchester Museum of Science and Industry's plan for a replica of the city's sewer system (complete with smell) and a £1 million pretend drift mine being built at the Black Country Museum in Dudley.

Andrew Billen

## Belly laughs from a travelling man

## PAPERBACKS

Playing for Time by Jeremy Lewis (Fleming, £3.95).

He excels at vivid, nostalgic period sketches of the Fifties and Sixties, among them one of himself topped up in a nut-brown, burn-freezing suede jacket, and "blue and white Ted Heath sailing shoes".

He describes in a torrent of hilarious turns of phrase the observations of his keen eye for detail. In a Dublin pub he meets a well-upholstered manager "the roll of fat hanging over the back of his collar like a raw sausage that had been taped to the nose of his neck". There in Dublin, which "exuded a sour smell of stale beer and old socks", at the same pub he discovered "to my great delight, the snapped-off head of a tooth brush in my steak and kidney pie".

An elderly Yorkshire terrier belonging to one of his landladies, reeks unpleasantly of cabbage and the "dog's equivalent of baked beans and onion sauce", its "various internal linings seemed to have perished, like the rubber in a hot water bottle that is nearing the end of its days". President De Valera is

described "looking like a bad-tempered Muscovy duck that had somehow been fitted out with a pair of gold-rimmed spectacles".

His imagination is original and inexhaustible. Deserted in the States by his fellow-student travellers, he continued his journey alone "whirling about America like a headless chicken in trousers". In South America he was given a razor-sharp knife by a caring native in order to defend himself at the hands of rum-crazed banana salesmen or man-eating pumas; or Mexican bandits with unshaven chins and pruney-like eyes.

Jeremy Lewis searches for a definition of Trinity "neither a part of England nor of Ireland": it could never be seen as "a part of the English Establishment, while sharing some of its graces and assumptions".

As one of Trinity's devoted ones, he leaves us with a pleasant, lingering yearning for his Dublin friends and their escapades, and a sharpened appetite for what is to come in the world of publishing. He is vastly entertaining, and he must write more.

Brian Martin

## NEW PAPERBACKS

The Deputy Literary Editor's selection of interesting paperback published this week.

**The Red Devils**, by G.G. Norton (Arrow, £3.95) History of the Parachute and other airborne forces from Arnhem to the Falklands, these men are a force to be reckoned with.

**Winged Dagger**, by Roy Farrer (Griffin, £3.95) War-time memoirs from a chap in the Special Forces, later the SAS. The liberated Italians called them the "Battaglione McGinty".

**Keith Douglas**, by Desmond Graham (OUP, £5.95) Blog of our finest Second World War poet, killed in 1944, and still inexplicably underrated.

**Wilfred Owen**, by John Stallworthy (OUP, £5.95) Blog of our finest First World War poet, not at all underrated.

**David Hockney**, by David Hockney (Thames and Hudson, £12.95) First paperback edition of the 1976 text. At the time, *The Times* called it "loopy, unpretentious".

**London under London**, by Richard Trench and Ellis Hillman (John Murray, £9.95) Subterranean guide to London. There are frogs in the sewers; the rita art them.

**Paris — A Literary Companion**, by Ian Littlewood (John Murray, £7.95) Proud in the Rue Fontaine, Sartre in the Café de Flore, just about everyone at the  *Deux Magots*.

**Cool Hand Lulu**, by Doni Pearce (Abacus, £3.95) The original chain-gang novel, inspiration for the Paul Newman film. "Now what we have here is a breakdown in communication..."

## CONCISE CROSSWORD NO 1647

Prizes of the 1988 Collins Concise Dictionary will be given for the first two correct solutions opened on Thursday, August 25. Entries should be addressed to The Times Concise Crossword Competition, 1 Pennington Street, London, E1 9XN. The winners and solution will be announced on Saturday, August 27.

ACROSS	DOWN
1 Durable wall painting (6).	1 Spoken exams (5).
2 Assent with head (3).	3 Compel (6).
4 Place for use (6).	5 Castle tower (4).
6 Cruise resistance (8).	7 Have ambition (6).
8 Pump (6).	9 Cross-country skier (8).
10 Engraved (4).	11 Mph measure (6).
12 Bizarrely beautiful (5).	13 Married woman title (3).
14 Waste (5).	15 Stockings seller (6).
16 Automatically approved (6-7).	17 Dots painting technique (9).
18 Farmer (3-4).	19 Hated (5).
19 Long-eared horse (3).	20 Final odds (8-5).
20 Infamous (9).	21 Revive (7).
21 Minute fragments (5).	22 Minute fragments (5).
22 Morale (3).	

The winners of prize concise No 1647 are: Mrs C.M. Jenkinson, The Rectory, Finmere, Buckingham; and H.J. Weller, Moray Place, Blenheim, Milton Keynes.

**SOLUTION TO NO 1646**  
ACROSS: 1 Baffle 4 Tragic 9 Der-  
vis 10 Frisco 11 New 12 Rear lamp  
14 Centre 15 Calico 16 Residual  
20 Spy 22 Glean 23 Truancy 25 An-  
them 26 Sural.  
DOWN: 1 Bid 2 Throw in 3 Lair  
5 Referral 6 Guava 7 Cacophony  
8 Shred 11 Nicaragua 13 Prudence  
16 Impinge 17 Nasty 19 Spout  
21 Just 24 Yak.

**SOLUTION TO No 1641 (last Saturday's prize concise)**  
ACROSS: 1 Swerve 5 Cards 8 Nil 9 Tipped 10 Impair  
11 Gear 12 Riffraff 14 Cleave 15 Canape 16 Spread  
18 Veer 19 Way out 21 Bottle 22 Coo 23 Torch 24 Unripe.  
DOWN: 2 White elephant 3 Reportage 4 Endorse 5 Gift  
6 Ray 7 Stiff upper lip 13 Renovator 15 Carbon 17 Ditch  
20 Owl.

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_



## THE WEEK AHEAD



## CONCERT

**METAMORPHOSIS:** Zubin Mehta, who is now in his tenth season as the New York Philharmonic's music director, conducts the orchestra in two London concerts next week. At the Proms we hear the premiere of Ellen Taaffe Zwilich's *Symphony*, with Murray Perahia in Beethoven's "Emperor" Concerto and Stravinsky's *Secre du Printemps*. At the Barbican, Mehta and NYPO play Schubert's *Symphony No 2* with Bruckner's No 4. Royal Albert Hall, Tuesday 7.30pm, Barbican Centre, Wednesday, 7.45pm.



## BOOKS

**rites of RETURN:** A.N. Wilson, having just rattled out a biography of Tolstoy and a book of essays, publishes *Incline Our Hearts* (Hamish Hamilton, £11.95) this week, his first novel since *Love Unknown* which came out in 1986. It follows the life and times of an orphan, Julian Ramsay, growing up in the tidy, stern England of just after the Second World War, and his rites of passage from childhood, to adolescence and as a young man through the "English Gait" of prep school, public school and National Service.



## OPERA

**DOUBLE DEBUT:** Martine Dupuy, the French mezzo-soprano, makes her Prom debut in a concert performance of Bellini's version of *Romeo and Juliet*, his opera *I Capuleti e i Montecchi*, on Sunday. She was heard as Romeo at Covent Garden, following in the footsteps of Beltra and Troyanos, three years ago. She will be back at the Royal Opera House in the 1989/90 season in another Bellini role: Adalgisa in *Norma*. Her greatest acclaim has come in the bel canto repertoire. Royal Albert Hall (01-379 4444).



## ROCK

**ROARING ROCKER:** If Iggy Pop turns up (he's been AWOL in South America), then Friday's Reading Rock Festival should ignite. Detroit's 44-year-old nuclear rocker rejuvenates with monstrous regularity; recent performances suggest he's got more than Mattinsons. Hard core fans expect a set ranging from vintage Stooges to the Bowie productions and a guest appearance by ex-Sex Pistol Steve Jones. Don't forget to pack earplugs. Richfield Avenue, Berkshire (0632 566777), Friday for three days.



## GALLERIES

**STICKS AND STONES:** Andy Goldsworthy is among several younger British artists, nominally sculptors, whose work is informed by a respect for Nature. His patterns made from pebbles, dead leaves, shoots and elaborate hanging meshes contrived from sticks and thorns stuck together with spit, are photographed and then left in the landscape to decay and to be encountered by passers-by. A selection of Goldsworthy's recent creations is at Bluecoat Gallery, Liverpool (051 703 5689), from today.



## DANCE

**LEADING PARTNERS:** Yoko Morishita is one of Nureyev's favourite partners and won a 1985 Laurence Olivier Award for dancing *Giselle* with him. But for the Edinburgh Festival performances of *Giselle* by the Matsuyama Ballet from Tokyo, her partner will be Tetsutaro Shimizu (Tuesday, Friday and August 27). They also dance the leads in a new ballet by Shimizu, *Marsale*, about a Buddhist artist who falls in love with a Christian girl (Thursday and August 28). Playhouse, Edinburgh (031-225 5756).

## Red Rodney plays a song for 'Bird'

It is, of course, too late by more than 30 years for Charlie Parker to benefit from the public interest aroused by *Bird*, Clint Eastwood's forthcoming biopic. Of the various minor characters who might find a little of the limelight spilling their way, none would deserve it more than the trumpeter Red Rodney.

One of the great saxophonists' most faithful acolytes, Rodney was the only white boy in Parker's otherwise all-black combo. The movie relates how, during a tour of the segregated southern states in the early Fifties, he was forced to pass his fair skin and ginger hair off under the assumed identity of "Albino Red".

On Monday at the Jazz Pavilion, in one of the most enticing events of this year's McEwan's Edinburgh International Jazz Festival, Rodney pays tribute to his erstwhile employer by teaming up with the British altoist Peter King, who embodies Parker's leg-



**Jamming:** Jazz veteran Red Rodney says as authentically as any altoist in the world. Other likely highlights include the appearances of the Concord All Stars (featuring Warren Vaché and Scott Hamilton) and the veteran trumpeter Doc Cheatham's Harlem Blues and Jazz Band at the Farewell Ball on Friday, and the Usher Hall gala concert next Saturday.

Richard Williams

## INTERNATIONAL FESTIVAL

**MISERIA E NOBILITA:** A classic play from the acknowledged master of Neapolitan farce, Eduardo Scarpetta, directed by one of his direct descendants. Royal Lyceum Theatre, Grindlay St (031 225 5756), £4.50-£8, Thurs-Aug 27 at 7pm, Aug 28 at 2.30pm.

**GREEK:** British premiere of Mark Anthony Turnage's new opera, based on the play of the same name by Steven Berkoff, which brings the Oedipus legend to contemporary London. Leith Theatre, Ferry Rd (031 225 5756), 7.30pm, 25-27, Thurs-Aug 27.

**ROYAL PHILHARMONIC ORCHESTRA:** With conductor and soloist Vladimir Ashkenazy. Perhaps the most interesting concert is the Stibelius and Shostakovich on Thurs. Usher Hall, Lothian Rd (031 225 5756), 8pm, £5.50-£16.50, Tues, Wed, Thurs.

**SHOSTAKOVICH QUARTET:** Concluding concerts in their top quality complete Shostakovich quartet cycle. Queen's Hall, Clerk St (031 225 5756), 11am, Mon, Wed, Fri.

## OTHER EVENTS

**GLENLIVET FIREWORKS:** There can be few better backdrops for a really big fireworks display than Edinburgh Castle. It's a clear night, Calton Hill makes an even better vantage point than Princes Street. Take your trannie - the simultaneous music, played on the Ross Bar stand by the Scottish Chamber Orchestra, is broadcast on Radio Forth. Princes Street Gardens, 10.45pm. Free, Thurs.

**HUGH MACDIARMID CONFERENCE:** Ten years after his death the great and the good converge to consider his legacy to Scotland and the world. Some high-powered contributors and, as a prelude, Tom Fleming's definitive performance of MacDiarmid's meditation on the Scottish character, *A Drunk Man Looks at the Thistle*. Richard Demarco Gallery, 17-21 Blackfriars St (031 557 0707). Sessions start at 9.45am and run all day, £10 (£18 with lunch and dinner). Tomorrow-Wed.

## THE FRINGE

**FRINGE SUNDAY:** The chance to see everything on the Fringe in one

## EDINBURGH FESTIVAL



afternoon for nothing. Well, not quite, but there will be masses of Fringe performers falling off the backs of lorries, bands, balloons, and all the fun of the fair, and it is all free. Pray for a fine day. Holyrood Park, 1-5pm, Tomorrow.

**PTT ALBERT:** Dinner at the mental asylum as served, literally, by Albert, the auxiliary nurse in an extraordinary solo performance from France. Drummond Community High School, Cochran Terrace (tickets 031 226 2633), 8-9.15pm, 26, Mon-Sept 3.

**DEAD DAD DOG:** A late replacement for the Open Stage Opera company from Yugoslavia, but a welcome reshuffling of John Mackay's delightful two-hander about a father returning to visit his son 12 years after his death. It was a hit earlier in the year at the Traverse.

## EDINBURGH FESTIVAL

**GRAND MAGIC:** A fine production of De Filippo's debate on the nature of illusion and reality, seen at Mayfest earlier this year with recent graduates from Royal Scottish Academy of Music and Drama under the direction of John Raitcliff. Assembly Rooms, (venue 3) 54 George St (031 226 2423) 12.30pm, £4.50 (concessions £3.50), Mon-Sept 3 (not Aug 29).

## FILM FESTIVAL

The Film Festival's second week includes a number of major films: **BIRD:** Clint Eastwood's film on Charlie Parker is probably the Festival's biggest coup. Red Rodney, who replaced Miles Davis as Parker's trumpet player, is in town for the screening and for a Parker tribute concert at 10.30 Meadowbank on Aug 22. **Cannon, Lothian Rd (031 226 2688) 8pm, £4-£5.50 (returns only). Tomorrow.** **THE RAGGEDY HAWKEY:** Directorial debut of Bob Hoskins, who also stars, with a tale of the gypsy folk who are his own forebears. Cameo, Home St (031 226 2688) 8pm, £4, Aug 22.

## TELEVISION FESTIVAL

**EDINBURGH INTERNATIONAL TELEVISION FESTIVAL:** Strictly speaking, sessions are for delegates only, but the keynote McTaggart Lecture is open to the public. This year Christine Clewett from France's TF1 speaks on the future of broadcast television in the light of her own alarming experiences when French television was aggressively deregulated. Assembly Rooms, 54 George St (031 226 2427/8), Fri-Aug 26, McTaggart Lecture, 11am, Fri.

## JAZZ

**McEwan's EDINBURGH INTERNATIONAL JAZZ FESTIVAL:** Starting with a big parade on Sunday. Today-Aug 27, all over town. See panel, left. **ROUND MIDNIGHT:** The other jazz festival, based at the Queen's Hall continues throughout the week. Highlights include Carol Kidd on Mon and Tues at 7.15pm and Tommy Smith on Fri and Aug 27 at 7.15pm. Queen's Hall, Clerk St (031 668 2091) £5-£6.50, until Aug 27. Listings compiled by Robert Dawson Scott and Stephanie Bilen

## THEATRE

**MAKEPEACE DAILY GOES TO RUSSIA:** Quaker Youth Theatre. The Leavers, warm up for a visit to the USSR (first-ever youth theatre exchange) with *Home Sweet Home*, about young Londoners, plus rock and folk music. Hoxton Hall, 130 Hoxton Street, N1 (01-739 5431), Mon-Wed.

**MUCH ADO ABOUT NOTHING:** Renaissance Theatre Company production, directed by Judi Dench, with Kenneth Branagh, Samantha Bond. Joined in repertory next week by *As You Like It* (Geraldine McEwan directs) then *Hamlet* (Derek Jacobi directs). Phoenix, Charing Cross Road, WC2 (01-836 2254). Previews from Thurs. Opens Thurs.

**PICASSO:** Zanya Hamada, Tokyo fine art dealer, directs the London premiere of his own piece about the artist. Cast of five. The Place, 17 Dukes Road, WC1 (01-387 0031), Tues-Aug 27 only.

**BIRMINGHAM:** The Illusion: Actors Touring Company start a tour of the British professional premiere production of Cernille's comedy, translated by John Galmross. Midland Arts Centre, Cannon Hill Park (021 440 9838), Thurs-Aug 27.

## DANCE

**MOSCOW CLASSICAL BALLET:** The London Season of Swan Lake ends today at the Business Design Centre, Islington (01-836 1226), and the tour concludes with a week at Birmingham Hippodrome (021 622 7486) with *Swan Lake* Mon-Wed and August 27, and a diversification programme on Thurs and Fri.

## CONCERTS

**LISTEN TO LITTON:** The LPO is conducted by Andrew Litton in a Prom consisting of Tchaikovsky's *Romeo and Juliet* Fantasy-Overture, Shostakovich's *Symphony No 10* and Mendelssohn's Violin Concerto. Albert Hall, Kensington Gore, London SW7 (01-589 8212, cc 01-379 4444), Today, 7.30pm.

## WORD-WATCHING

**PANCAKE:** (a) A specially designed bullet for use by airline security guards, who have to fire pistols inside the pressurized cabin of an aircraft: the bullet is a camera lens fitted with lead shot, which will kill at close range, but slows down fast so as (with a little bit of luck) not to puncture the hull. **THANATIZE:** (b) To process in a lethal manner, to send to sleep permanently, from the Greek *thanatos* death. "During his entry and vagabondage he learned their canine words, error and vengeance, for having raised on three clean shots at what he thought would be oblivion, he set about to thanatize himself in messy increments of degradation." **NILOMETER:** (a) An instrument for measuring the height of water in the Nile, especially during its inundation. **SCORICAC:** (b) Relating to black basaltic lava or clinker, thrown up by volcanoes when erupting, from the Greek *skoraios* "my single sip of beer was a conflagration in the arteries, a Vesuvius to erupt and gush in scoricac torrents."

**WINTER WONDERLAND:** The Schubert-Britten "Feeling for Music" series keeps moving with Andreas Schmidt singing Schubert's *Winterreise* cycle, accompanied by Markus Hinterhäuser. Queen Elizabeth Hall, South Bank, London SE1 (01-928 3191, cc 01-928 8800), Mon, 7.45pm.

**MORE SCHUBERT:** Susan Tomes (piano), Chi-chi Nwanoku (double bass) and others contribute an account of Schubert's "Trout" Quintet to the "Feeling for Music" Schubert-Britten series. Queen Elizabeth Hall, South Bank, London SE1 (01-928 3191).

**BRITISH YOUTH OPERA:** Peter Knapp's production of *Don Giovanni* keeps more young singers in employment as it runs on Wed and Fri at 7.30pm, with *The Marriage of Figaro* on Thurs and Sat Aug 27, also at 7.30pm. Tyne Opera House, Newcastle (091 232 0899).

## JAZZ

**IRENE REID:** The ex-Basie vocalist shares the billing with the big band led by the baritone player Jackie Sharpe. Ronnie Scott's Club, London W1 (01-439 0747) Mon-Sat.

**GLENAN MILLER ORCHESTRA:** "Moonlight Serenade".

"Pennsylvania 65000", "Tuxedo Junction", and the rest. Barbican Centre, London EC2 (01-638 8891) Fri.

## RADIO

**TINKER, TAILOR, SOLDIER, SPY:** Far less complicated than the TV serial, and Bernard Hepton's George Smiley is as good as Guinness's. Radio 4, Tues, 6.30-7pm.

**J. KINGSTON PLATT:** Peter Jones returns with more reminiscences by the non-existent showbusiness know-all. Delicious and malicious. Radio 4, Fri, 4.05-4.30pm.



**The memory of Troy:** What links the Greekness common women with fifth-century sex-striding women of Athens? Playwright-poet Tony Harrison is just the man to make the connection. He has his head in the 20th century, and his feet in the soil of Ancient Greece, and in this programme he reworks the texts of Greek tragedies so that they throw new light on contemporary issues. Radio 4, Wed, 11-11.47am.

## FILMS

Also on national release in Advance booking possible

**DEATH OF A SALESMAN (PG):** The 1984 Broadway production of Arthur Miller's play about the American dream, sympathetically filmed for American TV by Volker Schlöndorff, with Dustin Hoffman, Kate Reid, John Malkovich. Camden Plaza (01-485 2443), from Fri.

**RAMBO II (16):** In which Sylvester Stallone vacates a Buddhist monastery to spring a Green Beret buddy from Soviet imprisonment in Afghanistan. A strident sequel, strewn with battles and blood. Directed by Peter MacDonald, with Richard Crenna. Leicester Square Theatre (01-930 5252), Odéon Marble Arch (01-723 2011), from Fri.

**LAUGHING IN THE FACE OF DEATH:** A stone-carved installation about war memorials by sculptor Robert Kennedy. Chapter Arts Centre, Cardiff (0222 396061), from today.

**ART AND COMPUTERS:** Computer-assisted works of painting, sculpture and prints by 37 artists. Cleveland Gallery, Middlesbrough (0642 225408), from today.

## ROCK

**IRON MAIDEN:** "Can I Play With Madness" villains headline the annual Monsters Of Rock

headbangers' convention. Today, Donington Park, Castle Donington, Derbyshire.

## BOOKINGS FIRST CHANCE

**MANCHESTER FESTIVAL:** Programme includes world premiere of *Lady Audley's Secret* by Gloria, Joseph and the Amazing Technicolour Dreamcoat at the Opera House, Black Theatre Co-operative in *Temporary Rapture*, and Abraham Moss Community Theatre's *So Many Promises*. Sept 21-Oct 2. Manchester Ticket Shop, Town Hall, St Peters Square, Manchester (061 236 8474, cc 061 236 7231).

**SUNDAY MORNING COFFEE CONCERTS:** 88/89 programme includes Budapest Wind Ensemble, Vogler Quartet of East Berlin, Nash Ensemble, Dornus, and Lindosy String Quartet. Sept-Jan. Wigmore Hall, 36 Wigmore St, London W1 (01-935 2141).

## LAST CHANCE

**TWENTIETH CENTURY DRAWINGS:** Exhibits from the Birmingham Collection, including works by Picasso, Diego Rivera, Wyndham Lewis, David Bomberg, Gwan Glin, Frances Hodgkin. Art Gallery, Lichfield St, Wolverhampton. Ends today (0902 312032).

**Stage:** Tony Patrick; Concerts: Max Harrison; Dancer: John Percival; Opera: Hilary Finch; Golf: Michael Young; Films: Geoff Brown; Radio: Peter Davall; Rock: David Sinclair; Jazz: Clive Davis; Bookings: Anne Whitehouse.

## REGIONAL TELEVISION VARIATIONS

Continued from facing page

## SATURDAY

**BBC1 WALES:** 5.25pm-5.30pm Sports. 5.30pm-5.40pm News. 5.40pm-5.50pm Sports. 5.50pm-6.00pm News. 6.00pm-6.10pm Sports. 6.10pm-6.20pm News. 6.20pm-6.30pm Sports. 6.30pm-6.40pm News. 6.40pm-6.50pm Sports. 6.50pm-7.00pm News. 7.00pm-7.10pm Sports. 7.10pm-7.20pm News. 7.20pm-7.30pm Sports. 7.30pm-7.40pm News. 7.40pm-7.50pm Sports. 7.50pm-8.00pm News. 8.00pm-8.10pm Sports. 8.10pm-8.20pm News. 8.20pm-8.30pm Sports. 8.30pm-8.40pm News. 8.40pm-8.50pm Sports. 8.50pm-9.00pm News. 9.00pm-9.10pm Sports. 9.10pm-9.20pm News. 9.20pm-9.30pm Sports. 9.30pm-9.40pm News. 9.40pm-9.50pm Sports. 9.50pm-10.00pm News. 10.00pm-10.10pm Sports. 10.10pm-10.20pm News. 10.20pm-10.30pm Sports. 10.30pm-10.40pm News. 10.40pm-10.50pm Sports. 10.50pm-11.00pm News. 11.00pm-11.10pm Sports. 11.10pm-11.20pm News. 11.20pm-11.30pm Sports. 11.30pm-11.40pm News. 11.40pm-11.50pm Sports. 11.50pm-12.00pm News. 12.00pm-12.10pm Sports. 12.10pm-12.20pm News. 12.20pm-12.30pm Sports. 12.30pm-12.40pm News. 12.40pm-12.50pm Sports. 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## SATURDAY

## TELEVISION AND RADIO

Compiled by Jane Rackham and Robert Christensen

## SUNDAY

## DANCE

**LEADING PARTNERS:** Volo Morghita is one of the best pieces of television of the last decade, and one offers it and the extended TV version of *The Godfather* as two of a small handful of indisputably great works to have appeared on the box. *Heimat* is a family saga of life in a German village between 1919 and 1982 (part nine of 11 tonight), is inevitably, about coming to terms with Nazism, and, as such, a lesson in memory. The inability to remember (which is also the impossibility of forgetting) is the recurring subject of post-war West German cinema, and is most often identified as a spiritual homesickness. *Heimat* (mean-

ing homeland) restores continuity to those frozen years. Seeing this series again, one is impressed by the attention to detail: countless little instances — an odd remark, an object here or there (the use of props is exemplary), how a landscape looks in different weather, the way the actors are made to age — build up an elaborate tracery of memories in the viewer's mind over 15 hours. *Heimat*'s particular achievement is to make this small world and its people so known to us that in the end it does indeed feel like coming home.

**Chris Petit**

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# The Royal Ballet loses 'a great performer'

## Tributes for Sir Frederick Ashton

By Andrew Billen

The world of ballet was in mourning last night for Sir Frederick Ashton, one of the greatest choreographers of the century, who has died at the age of 83.

The Royal Opera House announced yesterday that the great dancer had died peacefully in his sleep at his home in Suffolk.

Sir Frederick, who was inspired as a boy by seeing Pavlova dance, has been associated with the Royal Ballet for as long as there has been a Royal Ballet.

A founder choreographer for Dame Ninette de Valois' young company in 1931, he became its principal choreographer and from 1963 until his retirement in 1970, also its director. Only last year, at the age of 82, he revived his ballet *Onegin* at Covent Garden.

Obituary page 10

Dame Ninette, founder of the Royal Ballet, was told the news at her home in London by Sir John Tooley, the former general director of the Royal Opera House.

She said it was the duty of the Royal Ballet to preserve Ashton's works "for ever and a day".

Dame Ninette, who was 90 in June, said: "He will be remembered as the founder of the English dance style in the classical world of ballet in this country. He understood the English dancer psychologically as well as physically."

"He would draw something out of an artist that they did not know they possessed; he gave them confidence and a sense of awareness that would otherwise have been lost both to the artists concerned and to the audience."

"Extremely intelligent, well-read and musical, his research work in a ballet was always wonderfully balanced, for he made no error of judgement in his choice of partners - whether it was the librettist, the composer or the dancer."

Dame Margot Fonteyn de Arino, speaking last night from Houston, Texas, said she had been crushed by the news. "You could not but love him. He was a wonderful charming man, who had the gift of bringing out the best in everyone he worked with. Of course, the influence on British dance is incalculable."

She added, recalling Sir Frederick's own performances, as an Ugly Sister in his 1948 *Cinderella* or as Mrs Tiggywinkle in the 1971 film *The Tales of Beatrix Potter*:



1985: Sir Frederick Ashton discussing interpretations with a dancer during rehearsals for the first English performance of his ballet *Romeo and Juliet*

"He may not have been one of the great dancers himself but what a wonderful performer!"

Sir Frederick choreographed a small dance for Dame Margot at her farewell performance at Covent Garden.

"When he came on to take the bow, he looked at me and smiled and said: 'shall we do that again?' And of course we did. That was the sort of inspiring man he was."

Sir John Tooley said that by Sir Frederick's death the world had lost one of its greatest choreographers.

He said: "He was nothing less than a genius and his contribution to the development of ballet in this country, and particularly to that of the Royal Ballet and Sadler's Wells Royal Ballet, is beyond words."

"His choreographic invention was wide-ranging and in all of it was ever present an extraordinary creative imagination at work which, coupled with a deep musical and poetic sense and an unerring eye, produced an endless stream of lyrical ballets of outstanding beauty and quality."

Sir Peter Wright, director of Sadler's Wells Royal Ballet, said Sir Frederick's influence was incalculable.

He said: "Fred's death has affected me more deeply than I can express in words. The news has been absolutely shattering and somehow I have never thought of life in the royal ballet companies without him."

"I mourn the passing of a great and extraordinary man. He will remain one of the real greats of this world. Though not physically, he will always be with us through the great and lasting legacy he has left us in his ballets."



1965: Robert Helpmann (left) and Frederick Ashton as the Ugly Sisters in *Cinderella*

## Security fears for Zia funeral

Continued from page 1

the process" of a power struggle. British officials refuse to discuss the security arrangements for Sir Geoffrey. Britain's decision to be represented at the funeral by the Foreign Secretary was taken to show the respect London held for its relations with the former Pakistani leader. But his arrival is expected to cause headaches for British and Pakistani officials responsible for his safety.

All civilian and military officials involved in presidential trips, as well as the personnel of the Bahawalpur airport from where the plane had taken off minutes before the crash, have been detained for questioning.

A remote-control device detonated shortly after take-off is said by experts to be the likely cause for the explosion. They rejected an earlier theory that the presidential plane may have come under missile fire, pointing to the fact that the C-130's four engines were intact.

Press reports yesterday said that explosives may have been placed inside crates loaded on to the plane at the last minute. Mohammad Aslam Khattak who, as senior cabinet member, heads Pakistan's interim government, told the Senate on Thursday night that he had had advance warning of Pakistan's enemies attempting to assassinate leading Pakistani politicians.

The Air Force chief, Hakimullah Khan, yesterday agreed, saying that the explosion was surely an act of sabotage and part of a conspiracy, but he did not say who he believed was responsible.

Although the local press has played up the possibility of foreign involvement in General Zia's death, analysts have all but ruled out the theory that his arch-rivals in Moscow and Delhi would have played any part in his assassination. It is still possible, however, that supporters of the Soviet-backed Government in Kabul, who have been blamed for a number of terrorist attacks inside Pakistan, may have wanted his removal enough to organize his assassination.

Armed troops have been posted at oil installations, television and radio stations and other important places in Karachi.

## Lester Piggott's wife injured in horse fall

Continued from page 1

heath every day. Mrs Piggott was riding alone when the horse, a "stable hack", apparently slipped on hard ground and fell on top of her. She was found some time afterwards lying concussed. Her standard issue "hard hat" had protected her head from more severe injuries.

Mr Richardson said: "I understand that Mrs Piggott had gone ahead of the string of horses on her own to gain a vantage point where she could watch them being exercised."

"For the accident to happen now is very sad on top of everything that has already happened and it all comes as a terrible blow to the family."

Mrs Piggott's eldest daughter Maureen, aged 27, raised the alarm and went with her mother by ambulance to the hospital.

She said afterwards: "It's been a very harrowing day for us. Nobody actually saw it happen but it appears her horse slipped on the concrete."

"It wasn't long before she was found. She was still conscious at the time and an ambulance was called immediately. It was terrible."

Mrs Maureen Piggott, who yesterday took over supervision of the stables, said: "We intend to carry on as normal. I expect it will be in time."

In 1975, Mrs Susan Piggott broke her pelvis in a fall. The Prison Department said, without referring to Piggott, that a request to make a compassionate visit was a decision for the Highpoint governor.

## Civil Service shift

Continued from page 1

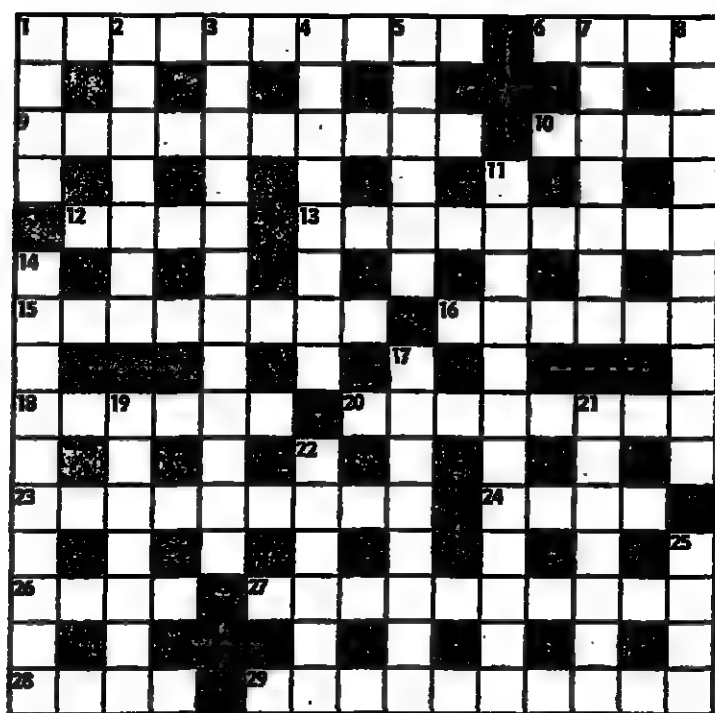
mission, is already located. The headquarters staff of the Training Commission, now located in Grays Inn Road, central London, are to move into the main Department of Employment office in Westminster.

Recent technological advances including electronic mail and teleconferencing have made communications between outlying stations and headquarters offices much easier.

Mr Fowler is also understood to want to give his department a head start in recruiting junior office staff. He has recently been lecturing business leaders on the need to prepare for a downturn in the number of teenagers available.

The Civil Service unions are to be consulted about the move, which is to be sold to staff on the basis of cheaper property prices in the North and the better "quality of life" available in Cheshire and South Yorkshire.

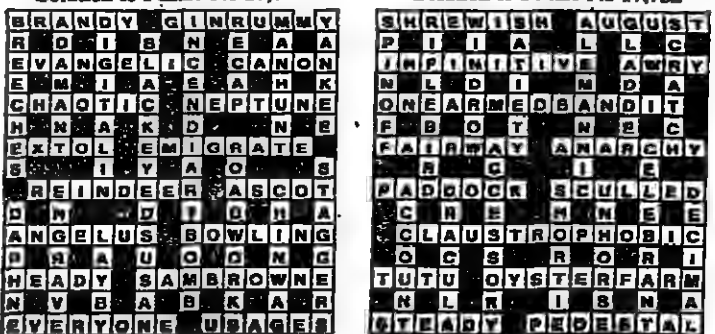
## THE TIMES CROSSWORD PUZZLE NO 17,753



ACROSS

- 1 Cut down relation's trousers, right? (5,3)
- 6 Hook resulting in catch, finally? (4)
- 9 No revolutionary change for a guard roster (10)
- 10 With final letter in, crossword beginner concludes it's elementary (4)
- 12 Such unfairness used to get to Jack (4)
- 13 Fighting banian, perhaps, in place of early retirement (9)
- 15 Go over some extra verses (8)
- 16 As spy chief, I remove man operating in the field (3-3)
- 18 Station us in school, next to head (6)
- 20 Island's, thus, of a certain geological period (8)
- 23 Keen as 15, but not averse to charm (9)
- 24 Observe one's pony skipping on and on (4)
- 26 Black elected by Southern state (4)
- 27 Make powerless a patient goddess (10)

Solution to Puzzle No 17,747



## WORD-WATCHING

A daily safari through the language jungle. Which of the possible definitions is correct?

By Philip Howard

ANCAKE

- a. A security bullet
- b. A crash at pole-vaulting
- c. To forget one's lines

THANATIZE

- a. To disinfect or clean
- b. To kill
- c. To start again from scratch

NILOMEETER

- a. A meter for the Nile
- b. A measure starting at zero
- c. An Egyptian distance

SCORIAL

- a. Stinging like a scorpion
- b. Volcanic
- c. A cataclysmic trimmer

Answers on page 20, column 1

A prize of a distinctive Sheaffer 'Targa' Regency Stripe fountain pen with a solid 14-carat gold nib will be given for the first five correct solutions opened next Thursday. Entries should be addressed to: The Times, Saturday Crossword Competition, PO Box 486, Virginia Street, London E1 9DD. The winners and solution will be published next Saturday.

The winners of last Saturday's competition are: J. Austen, Mill Lane, Hastings, Sussex; P. G. Stephenson, Church Lane, Kirk Ella, E Yorks; K. A. Keith, Linkfield Lane, Redhill, Surrey; D. J. Dare-Plumpton, Barnes Crescent, Slough, Bucks; C. A. Bone, Holmeville Road, Teddington, Middlesex.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

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## WEATHER

Low pressure to the north of Britain will give many areas a spell of rather unsettled weather. Northern parts of Scotland will be cloudy with rain at times. Northern Ireland, southern Scotland and northern parts of England will start showery with a few sunny intervals but the cloud and rain over northern Scotland will gradually spread south. Wales and central and southern parts of England will have sunny intervals and showers, some heavy, particularly in western areas. Quite windy, with gales in parts of the north-west. Outlook for Sunday and Monday: Unsettled with showers at first.

## ABROAD

Monday: t-thunder; d-drizzle; b-bog; s-sun; st-sleet; sn-snow; f-fair; c-cloud; r-rain

	C	F		C	F
Algeria	28	82	Lisbon	20	68
Alexandria	28	82	Madrid	20	68
Amman	28	82	Moscow	14	57
Athens	28	82	Munich	20	68
Bahia	28	82	Nairobi	20	68
Bombay	28	82	Paris	20	68
Buenos Aires	28	82	Rangoon	28	82
Calcutta	28	82	Rome	20	68
Cairo	28	82	Sao Paulo	20	68
Canton	28	82	Seoul	20	68
Cebu	28	82	Shanghai	20	68
Colon	28	82	Singapore	28	82
Hankow	28	82	Taipei	28	82
Hong Kong	28	82	Tokyo	20	68
Kobe	28	82	Yokohama	20	68
London	20	68			
Lyons	20	68			
Manila	28	82			
Medan	28	82			
Meiktila	28	82			
Perth	20	68			
Rangoon	28	82			
Reykjavik	14	57			
Singapore	28	82			
Sourabaya	28	82			
Taipei	28	82			
Tokyo	20	68			
Yokohama	20	68			

\* denotes Thursday's figures are latest available

## AROUND BRITAIN

	Sea	Wind	Temp	Sea	Wind	Temp
London	0.8	45	24	15	15	15
Edinburgh	0.8	45	24	15	15	15
Cardiff	0.8	45	24	15	15	15
Belfast	0.8	45	24	15	15	15
Manchester	0.8	45	24	15	15	15
Sheffield	0.8	45	24	15	15	15
Leeds	0.8	45	24	15	15	15
Nottingham	0.8	45	24	15	15	15
Coventry	0.8	45	24	15	15	15
Birmingham	0.8	45	24	15	15	15
Southampton	0.8	45	24	15	15	15
Portsmouth	0.8	45	24	15	15	15
Weymouth	0.8	45	24	15	15	15
Exmouth	0.8	45	24	15	15	15
London	0.8	45	24	15	15	15
Edinburgh	0.8	45	24	15	15	15
Cardiff	0.8	45	24	15	15	15
Belfast	0.8	45	24	15	15	15
Manchester	0.8	45	24	15	15	15
Sheffield	0.8	45	24	15	15	15
Leeds	0.8	45	24	15	15	15
Nottingham	0.8	45	24	15	15	15
Coventry	0.8	45	24	15	15	15
Birmingham	0.8	45	24	15	15	15
Southampton	0.8	45	24	15	15	15
Portsmouth	0.8	45	24	15	15	15
Weymouth	0.8	45	24	15	15	15
Exmouth	0.8	45	24	15	15	15

\* denotes Thursday's figures are latest available

## HIGH TIDES

	AM	HT	PM	HT	PM	HT
London Bridge	7.04	8.2	7.12	8.0	7.28	8.7
Aberdeen	6.26	8.2	7.10	8.4	7.22	8.9
Abercrombie	6.26	8.2	7.10	8.4	7.22	8.9
Cardiff	4.27	8.0	4.48	2.9	4.44	2.8
Dover	11.46	8.8	10.42	4.8	10.38	4.8
Edinburgh	3.61	8.8	4.08	8.7	4.01	8.4
Exmouth	3.58	4.4	10.12	4.4	10.10	4.3
Harwich	5.44	4.5	5.14	4.2	5.12	4.1
London	4.27	8.0	4.48	2.9	4.44	2.8
Lyons	4.27	8.0	4.48	2.9	4.44	2.8
Manila	3.20	4.2	3.54	4.1	3.52	4.0
Medan	11.23	6.2	11.21	7.7	11.19	6.2
Meiktila	7.56	4.7	8.25	4.5	8.23	4.5
Perth	4.07	8.0	4.36	7.7	4.34	7.6
Reykjavik	2.54	2.0	11.54	4.1	11.52	4.0
Singapore	5.10	4.2	5.19	4.1	5.17	4.0
Sourabaya	10.17	8.7	10.38	8.8	10.36	8.7
Taipei	10.46	3.1	10.58	3.1	10.56	3.0
Tokyo	9.48	8.5	9.53	8.5	9.51	8.4
Yokohama	11.38	1.5	11.45	1.5	11.42	1.4
London	4.27	8.0	4.48	2.9	4.44	2.8
Edinburgh	3.61	8.8	4.08	8.7	4.01	8.4
Cardiff	4.27	8.0	4.48	2.9	4.44	2.8
Belfast	4.27	8.0	4.48	2.9	4.44	2.8
Manchester	4.27	8.0	4.48	2.9	4.44	2.8
Sheffield	4.27	8.0	4.48	2.9	4.44	2.8
Leeds	4.27	8.0	4.48	2.9	4.44	2.8
Nottingham	4.27	8.0	4.48	2.9	4.44	2.8
Coventry	4.27	8.0	4.48	2.9	4.44	2.8
Birmingham	4.27	8.0	4.48	2.9	4.44	2.8
Southampton	4.27	8.0	4.48	2.9	4.44	2.8
Portsmouth	4.27	8.0	4.48	2.9	4.44	2.8
Weymouth	4.27	8.0	4.48	2.9	4.44	2.8
Exmouth	4.27	8.0	4.48	2.9	4.44	2.8

Tide measured at Lowestoft 10.3.2000.

Times are GMT

First Quarter 4.51pm

Full Moon August 27

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Security fears  
Zia funeral  
...  
Piggott's wife  
...  
Service ship  
...  
MANCHESTER  
...  
WESTERN

MARKETS	THE POUND
FT 30 Share 1484.5 (+8.3)	US dollar 1.7020 (+0.0015)
FT-SE 100 1844.3 (+10.4)	W German mark 3.2185 (-0.0031)
USM (Datastream) 169.09 (+0.39)	Trade-weighted 76.7 (same)

Executive Editor  
David Brewerton

## Farmers still talking with BAT

Crucial talks over BAT's \$5.1 billion (£3 billion) bid for Farmers, the US insurance group, were continuing up to the deadline in Los Angeles late last night. The offer, worth \$72 per share, was due to expire today if the Farmers' board, headed by Mr Leo Denica, had not entered into a definitive merger agreement.

Mr Denica and Mr Patrick Sheehy, the BAT chairman, said that no comment would be made on the progress of the talks until they concluded. A joint statement is expected at that time. BAT is expected to extend its \$72 offer if the talks are making progress.

## Boustead offer

Boustead, the international trading group, has declared unconditional its \$9.5 million offer for Camotech, the Third Market maker of aircraft seats and injection mouldings.

## Gas vote

Mr Noel Falconer, the champion of small shareholder rights, has failed in his attempt to gain election to the board of British Gas. He secured 849,781 votes with 519,169 against, it was announced last night.

## SE prices

Due to problems at Eitel Financial, we are unable to publish high and low figures on our main share prices page. This data has been replaced by the stocks' market capitalizations, which are calculated on yesterday's close.

### STOCK MARKETS

New York	Dow Jones	2032.36 (+5.33)
Tokyo	Nikkei Average	28209.42 (+80.08)
Hong Kong		
	Hang Seng	2578.75 (+8.34)
Amsterdam	Gen	274.3 (-0.9)
Sydney	AO	1640.9 (+10.9)
Frankfurt	Commerzbank	1467.1 (-18.2)
Breussels		
	General	4899.7 (-1.7)
	Parifac	352.1 (+0.3)
	Zurich SVA Gen	474.8 (+3.1)
London		
	FT-A All-Share	991.69 (+4.86)
	FT-100	1091.51 (+5.35)
	FT Gold Mines	193.3 (+5.5)
	FT Food Interm	97.61 (+0.02)
	FT Govt Secs	87.95 (+0.18)
Recent Issues		Page 24
Closing prices		Page 27

### MAIN PRICE CHANGES

Whitbread 'B'	570p (+60p)
Standard Chart	519p (+17p)
G Wimpey	243p (+8p)
Church	470p (+20p)
Dunhill	229p (+14p)
Elys (Wimbledon)	740p (+15p)
Time TV	202p (+20p)
Trade Indemnity	877p (+10p)
GR	720p (+15p)
Johnson Matthey	344p (+10p)
MY Holdings	81p (+8p)
Devin Packaging	109p (+10p)
British Aerospace	516p (+13p)
Lucas	563p (+12p)
Cadbury Schweppes	385p (+8p)
RHM	411p (+8p)
Farnell Elect	155p (+9p)

FALLS:	
Alphamerico	270p (-15p)
Morland	682p (-10p)
GF Lovell	137p (-10p)
Closing prices	
Bargains	21071

### INTEREST RATES

London Bank Base:	11%
3-month interbank:	11.11%
3-month eligible bills:	10.11%
buying rate	
US Fed Funds:	10%
3-month Treasury Bills:	7.08-7.04%
30-year bonds:	9.75-9.71%

### CURRENCIES

London:	New York:
£: \$1.7020	£: \$1.7025
DM: £2.186	DM: £2.185
SwF: £2.113	SwF: £2.110
FF: £10.9234	FF: £10.923
Yen: £25.36	Yen: £25.33
Index: 78.7	Index: 78.5
ECU: £0.64441	ECU: £0.64478

### GOLD

London Fixing:	
AM \$432.40 pm \$432.60	
Close \$431.75-432.25 (\$254.00-254.50)	
New York:	
Comex \$431.80-432.30	

### NORTH SEA OIL

Brent (Sept)	pm \$15.00 bid
Denotes latest trading price	

### THE TIMES

## STOCK WATCH

0898 141 141

● Stockwatch gives instant access to more than 10,000 share, unit trust and bond prices. The information you require is on the following telephone numbers:

● Stock market comment: General market 0898 121220; Company news 0898 121221; Active shares 0898 121225; USM 0898 121250

● Calls charged at 5p for 8 seconds peak and 12 seconds off-peak inc. VAT.

# EC and Panel go-ahead paves way for £210m offer GrandMet mounts IDG bid

By Colin Campbell

Grand Metropolitan, with the blessing of the Takeover Panel and the European Commission, yesterday launched a fresh bid for Irish Distillers Group at Ir£400p a share, valuing the Jameson and Paddy whiskey group at Ir£253 million (£210 million).

The Ir£400p share cash bid tops an original offer made on May 30 by a consortium, which included GrandMet, of Ir£315p a share, worth Ir£200 million, and will not be increased unless a competitive bidder emerges.

There is a loan note alternative and under a revised timetable the last date for acceptance is September 12. In London, Irish Distillers shares rose from 317p to 330p before settling back to 324p, below the offer price.

The GrandMet bid — made via GC&C Brands, now owned by Gilbey's of Ireland, a GrandMet subsidiary — was immediately rejected by IDG.

Mr Richard Burrows, the managing director, said IDG had received several other bids since the go-ahead was given to GrandMet by the EC and the Takeover Panel.

The Panel ruled that with particular reference to Rule 35 of the Takeover Code, and because of the unprecedented intervention of the EC, Irish Distillers shareholders had not had the proper opportunity to consider the initial bid. It would, therefore, be

wrong to deprive shareholders of that opportunity, the Panel said, and the bid timetable would be extended by 17 days.

IDG argued at a special meeting of the Panel that it had been subjected to bid disruption for too long, and as GrandMet was a member of the original bidding consortium, that Rule 35 of the Code should apply.

That rule says that no party may re-submit a bid for 12 months once a bid has lapsed.

The Panel ruled that GrandMet could proceed with a fresh, individual bid, but imposed a shortened timetable. GrandMet's new bid surfaced at 2.50pm.

In defending the Panel against the charge that it had "bent" Rule 35, Mr Anthony Beevor, its director general, said very few conclusions should be drawn for the future operation of Rule 35 from "this special case."

Asked if he resented the intervention of the EC, Mr Beevor said the Commission and the Panel had separate and distinct functions. That of the EC was to regulate competition matters. That of the Panel was to ensure fairness for shareholders.

"I think we have achieved a solution in which both bodies have managed to fulfil their functions in a way that is fair to all those concerned."

GrandMet, with half its annual sales of £6 billion from



Preparing for battle: Richard Burrows, managing director of Irish Distillers Group

## Pressure rises for Horizon referral

By Derek Harris  
Industrial Editor

There are mounting objections to the £75 million acquisition of Horizon, Britain's third largest package holidays operator, by Thomson Travel, the biggest holidays group.

It is likely to increase pressure on Sir Gordon Borrie, the Director General of Fair Trading, to refer the takeover for investigation by the Monopolies and Mergers Commission.

The deal with Bass, the brewer, was unconditional, so if a monopolies investigation went against Thomson, the travel group could be faced with divesting all or part of Horizon, which in addition to package holidays, operates the Orion charter airline.

The first objection, lodged with the Office of Fair Trading (OFT), came yesterday from Mr Harry Goodman, the chairman of International Leisure Group which includes the Intasun holidays operation.

Mr Goodman said: "The point is that the takeover would destabilize the industry. Either Thomson will go for reasonably profitable prices or there will be predatory pricing. Either way we see ourselves going for a market share for 1 million more holidays than we do now which would mean some extremely tough pricing." ILG expects to carry 2.6 million holiday-makers this year.

Mr Goodman added: "If Thomson goes for predatory pricing we are ready to make our own decisions. The result could be the bankruptcy of 40 per cent of the industry."

Mr Goodman objects also to Thomson dominance of chartering. Its Britannia airline plus Orion has nearly 32 per cent of charters and 38 per cent of British chartering.

The Thomson deal would result in "an unprecedented concentration of power" in the package holiday industry

## Motor trade falls further into red

By Daniel Ward, Motor Industry Correspondent

The British motor industry's trade deficit worsened by 50 per cent to £2.36 billion in the first five months of 1988, as car imports jumped by more than a third. The total value of motor industry imports, compared with the same period last year, rose by 24.2 per cent to £5.04 billion, as exports improved by only 7.2 per cent to £2.68 billion.

The trade deficit in cars was more than £600 million higher at £1.86 billion in the period from January to May. Ford has imported heavily from Continental plants to rebuild stocks depleted by the two-week pay dispute in February.

Last year, Ford imported 86,000 cars in the first seven months but this rose to 135,000 between January and July 1988. Vauxhall imports rose from 43,000 to 58,000 over the same period.

Record demand for new cars in Britain has sucked in 109,000 more imported cars between January and July than in 1987. The situation will worsen when figures are available for the booming August registrations.

Declining American sales of imported European cars has hit UK exports. They fell 3.2 per cent in value in the first five months.

The value of heavy truck imports has risen by almost 50 per cent to £354 million in the first five months and lighter trucks by 27 per cent. The value of truck exports remains at only one third the value of imports and the number of heavy trucks exported has fallen 5.2 per cent this year.

Parts and accessories showed a deficit of £399 million, £55 million worse than last year, reflecting the loss of Ford's exports of parts and engines to its Continental plants during the pay dispute.

Jaguar looks for cuts, page 25

## Goodison criticizes insider controls

By Our City Staff

Sir Nicholas Goodison, the Stock Exchange chairman, said yesterday that British regulations against insider trading were still inadequate.

However, he said he was encouraged that the Government was devoting more resources to combating the problem than previously.

Sir Nicholas, in Stockholm to celebrate the bourse's 125th anniversary, said: "Until about a year ago, we were getting pretty frustrated because we were reporting quite a lot of cases that we thought were insider trading and not a lot happened."

"Now, we are slightly more confident that when we report something it might get to the courts, but the law is in not quite the state that I would like it to be in," he said.

Sir Nicholas called Britain's regulatory system the most complex in the world.

"It's not going to do very well by 1992 unless some changes are made to it. If they don't make some changes, I can see that in itself driving some business away," he said.

Sir Nicholas said he believed Europe's markets ought to be aiming to establish a European inter-market trading system which could cover all leading European shares.

This concept did face problems, however, since different exchanges were governed by widely differing regulations and used different dealing and price display systems.

Mr David Ruder, chairman of the US Securities and Exchange Commission, urged world stock market regulators to introduce effective and compatible laws to deter insider trading. He said vastly different laws governing securities trading in different countries would have to be brought into line with one another as markets became increasingly intertwined.

"It's essential that we have a similar level of anti-fraud laws. That means laws against market manipulation, against insider trading and against rumour-mongering or misrepresentation of information to the markets."

He said the SEC was watching developments in Europe carefully, especially with relation to 1992.

"We are in some sense anxious to be sure that the regulation in the European Community reaches levels which are satisfactory to us because eventually we will be looking towards an integrated market with the European Community."

"World regulators must structure a level of international information sharing and enforcement co-operation to deter international law violations," he said.

## Interest rate fears grow as inflation hits 4.8%

By Richard Thomson

Inflation rose to 4.8 per cent in the 12 months to July and is now certain to rise well above 5 per cent in August as this month's mortgage rate increases are taken into account.

The accelerating rate of inflation is causing fears in the City that interest rates may soon be lifted to 11.5 per cent in a further attempt to dampen demand in the economy.

There is little sign that the last round of interest rate rises has done anything to slow down demand and huge amounts of imports are still being sucked in.

The inflation rate in July rose by only 0.1 of a percentage point, in line with expectations, leaving the retail price index at 106.7 (Jan 1987=100).

The increase was mainly caused by higher vehicle and insurance costs as well as further increases in electricity and gas prices. These were offset by seasonal factors such

as the summer sales and the lower price of fresh foods.

In the August figures, however, the mortgage rate rises which came into effect this month are likely to push the retail price index up by at least 0.5 of a point. According to some City estimates, the monthly increase could be as much as 0.75, giving an annual inflation rate of 5.5 per cent.

Building society lending figures confirmed the boom in consumer demand with record loans to home buyers of £5.4 billion during July, substantially higher than the £4.9 billion lent in June.

Deposits also continued at a high rate, with £1.3 billion received in July — the highest ever recorded for the month.

The markets are now waiting anxiously for next week's balance of payments figures for July. They are expected to show a rise in the trade deficit of about £1 billion, making a total deficit of some £6.7

billion for first seven months of this year.

Mr Bill Martin, chief UK economist at Phillips & Drew, the broker, said: "Practically every aspect of the economy is still showing excessive demand. Tax cuts and higher pay awards mean that demand is likely to accelerate."

"This is bad news for pay, because the economy only seems to be speeding up as we go into the next pay round."

The pound showed almost no reaction to yesterday's inflation figures which had already been widely anticipated. The trade-weighted index remained unchanged at 76.7, with sterling marginally higher against the dollar at \$1.7020.

Continuing dollar strength, however, prompted some intervention by the Bundesbank and the US Federal Reserve to keep the rate below DM1.90. The US currency closed 1 pfennig lower at DM1.8900.

## Societies lend record £5.4bn

By Rodney Hobson

Building societies lent a record £5.4 billion in new mortgages in July, the first time the figure has topped £5 billion in a single month.

And although the start of August saw the end to multiple tax relief on joint mortgages, the societies committed themselves to lend a further £5.36 billion in the next two or three months, figures showed.

July's lending record easily beat the previous best of £4.92 billion set a month earlier and was almost double the £2.76 billion lent in January.

The societies also attracted more savers, with £1.36 billion pouring in.

It was the sixth consecutive month, and the eighth time in the past nine months, that the

Building Society Receipts & Loans (£m)			
1988	Net Recpts	Money Adv'd	Net Pledges
Jan	580	2,762	2,677
Feb	1,102	3,082	4,336
Mar	1,059	4,222	5,885
Apr	1,576	3,861	4,773
May	1,353	4,390	5,226
Jun	1,229	4,924	5,668
Jul	1,362	5,431	5,360

figure had topped £1 billion. Investors have put a net £10.78 billion into building societies since the stock market crash in October. The July figure was £1 billion more than the inflow in July 1987.

Mr Mark Boleat, director general of the Building Societies Association, said: "The

inflow of funds into building societies rose to a high level immediately after the stock market crash last October and there is so far no sign of any decline in the rate of inflow.

"Net receipts are expected to continue to run at a high level in August and September although the inflow may be below that recorded in recent months."

Net receipts from non-retail sources such as syndicated bank loans, bonds and certificates of deposit were halved from £1.03 billion in June to £502 million in July.

The average house price in June was £55,725, an increase of 28.4 per cent over June 1987. The average new house sold for £64,578, up 29.7 per cent on a year earlier.

## What it takes to join the scandal busters Insider dealing sleuths at SE

By Rosemary Unsworth

Bored with your job? If you have an inquiring mind, ability to interview others, and are willing to chase up and down the country asking questions about other people's share transactions you could apply for one of the two vacant posts in the Stock Exchange's insider dealing group.

The insider dealing investigators, who have been responsible for helping to detect at least two scandals, are part of the Stock Exchange's surveillance department. This is run amidst some secrecy by Mr Bob Wilkinson, aged 55.

The department has 12 teams, each of five members, who monitor and remind City firms of their compliance responsibilities. Using computer software they have designed themselves, the surveillance teams are able to collate details of the size of stock sold, where, and at what time and price as well as the identities of

the two parties. This ability to discover, as early as 8.30 am, exactly what went on in the market the previous day has been enhanced since brokers now supply the clients' reference number.

But, as the events of last week proved when three City high fliers lost their jobs over insider dealing in the Mecca bid for Pleasurama, the system is now sufficiently sophisticated to make insider dealers think twice. All share price movements around the time of a takeover bid are routinely examined, particularly those just after the announcement, as insider dealers are usually anxious to take profits quickly.

Unusually large share transactions by clients who are not well known to their brokers are questioned, as are deals by people in stocks they do not usually trade.

The team looks at about 45 cases a

week, of which about 20 are passed to the market's 13-strong insider dealing group headed by Mr Mike Felton, aged 36. His investigators split into two camps: the first, sifters of information, act as a criminal intelligence department. Their identities are kept secret by the Exchange but they are recruited from the ranks of former policemen, Department of Trade staff and one is a former typist.

They pass on about 10 cases a week for further questioning by a second group, the undercover foot soldiers. They ask questions of friends, colleagues, lovers and anyone they believe may provide an explanation for a shady deal.

Surprisingly 90 per cent of cases are unconnected directly with City personnel. If the investigators are not satisfied, a case may then go to the Department of Trade, which can appoint its own inspectors.

# 100

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## STOCK MARKET

# Talk hardens of bid for

Benlox, the investment and property group, has completed the joint venture agreement with Chicksfield, a private property company, for the purchase of Wentworth, the prestigious golf club, which is being bought from Amec, the construction group for £17.7 million.

Benlox said it had subscribed for 500,000 shares in the company, worth £2.5 million, and for £2 million in loan stock. Part of the property of the club will be used for residential and leisure development.

Various other speculation, including talk that Mr Tony Berry, the chairman, is at index closed 8.3 points higher at 1,484.5. Receding fears of a further,

confident that the market should hear some bullish news soon about the group's Little

**Church & Co.**, which manufactures and retails expensive shoes of the same name, jumped by 20p to 470p, while **Dunhill**, the luxury goods company 51 per cent owned by **Rothmans International**, advanced by 14p to 229p with **County NatWest WoodMac** reported to be an aggressive buyer. **Rothmans** added 8p to 437p.

**Geoffrey Foster**

**TOKYO**

The Dow Jones industrial average was 14 points higher at 2,041.03 after rising to 2,043.00, and gaining issues outnumbered falling ones by almost two to one. Mr Eugene Peroni, the chief technical analyst at Janney Montgomery Scott, pointed out that the Dow average had risen above higher at 1,640.6 while the All Industrials Index gained 8.8 points to 2,626.9. The All Resources Index was 9.4 up at 1,894.2 and the gold market rose by 10.4 to 1,920.3.

Shares advanced for the third consecutive day in moderately strong trading, particularly in blue chips.

Advancing issues led declining shares by about seven to five.

Turnover was a robust 1 billion shares against 750 million on Thursday. This compares with record low levels of 230 million and 260 million shares on Monday and Tuesday respectively.

● **Hong Kong – The** Hang Seng index gained 8.34 points to finish at 2,579.75. One broker said investors were nervous about possible further increases in interest rates and inflation, adding that the market was expected to remain dull and quiet next week.

**STORY**

From Baghdad to riches, Ivan Fallon's extraordinary account traces the making of a modern empire. Read it exclusively in The Sunday Times.

**TOMORROW**

**From Baghdad to riches  
Ivan Fallon's extraordinary  
account traces the  
making of a modern empire.  
Read it exclusively in  
The Sunday Times.**



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## WALL STREET

[illegible]

EQUITIES			
AMSS (118)	121	Saunderson Elec (130p)	153
Buccinal Auto (110p)	121	Savills (25p)	126
Canalway Gp (125p)	170	SCHOC	218 1/2
Canalway Int	170	Severn-Rd R (80p)	36
Christie Gp (145p)	172 +2	Sono Taps (15p)	14 1/2
City Gate	316 +8	Steeleye	330 +2
Cokroy (150p)	152 +8	Tamaris	67 +2
Computer People	132 +8	Tams (John) (80p)	58
Conroy Part	48	Thomson (25p)	152
Engl O'sea Prop (155p)	138		
Eroston Gp (165p)	221	RIGHTS ISSUES	
European Cable	221	Amber N/P	
Heritage (50p)	150 +2	Burning Gp N/P	22 -1
Herring Son (150p)	112	Durham (OG) N/P	9 -3
Jackson Group	150 +2	Energy Gp N/P	2 1/2 +1
John Gp (115p)	141	WNC N/P	2 1/2 +1
Kendrews Ven	103	Pennine A' N/P	2 +1
Lat Telecom	226 -5	Pleasurem N/P	74 +1
Palmerston Hldgs	130 +2	Sanday NW	16
Stockport		Union Star N/P	
		(Issue price in brackets)	

Case	Page	Case	Page
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Series Oct Jan Apr Oct Jan Apr							Series Mar Jun Sep Jun Sep									
Alt Lays (402)	450	41	53	45	5	11	28	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Bee	390	15	15	23	42	45	50	50	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Deer	750	67	70	80	80	87	27	47	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
(152)	450	54	54	54	8	8	18	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Bk Air (152)	180	14	23	26	28	29	27	9	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
(152)	180	14	14	14	15	15	15	15	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Bk In (232)	220	22	25	36	37	5	8	8	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
(232)	260	5	1	1	1	1	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Bk In (231)	100273	33	33	33	33	33	33	33	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
(231)	200	2	8	6	6	6	6	6	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Bk In (231)	240	17255	25	25	25	25	25	25	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
(231)	280	14	8	8	8	8	8	8	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Can Gold (108)	100	32	70	170	25	25	25	25	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
(108)	1100	32	70	170	25	25	25	25	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Catfish (343)	330	27	36	45	9	13	34	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
(343)	360	10	26	26	26	26	26	26	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Can Union (354)	390	4	19	20	20	20	20	20	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
(354)	430	4	19	20	20	20	20	20	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
C & W (382)	390	45	35	35	35	35	35	35	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
(382)	390	45	35	35	35	35	35	35	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
CCR (701)	180	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
(701)	180	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
GRS (161)	180	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
(161)	180	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Grand Mar. (332)	330	16	15	25	32	8	13	25	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
(332)	450	87	85	87	87	87	87	87	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
(332)	480	10	25	25	25	25	25	25	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
(332)	500	135	180	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
(332)	540	390	390	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
(332)	1000	55	85	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
(332)	220	12	36	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
(332)	260	23	30	43	6	12	10	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
(332)	280	20	14	21	31	16	21	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
(332)	300	18	13	20	27	14	20	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
(332)	320	15	10	16	21	11	17	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
(332)	340	12	8	13	23	4	13	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
(332)	360	9	5	10	20	3	10	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
(332)	380	6	4	7	15	2	7	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
(332)	400	5	3	5	12	1	5	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
(332)	420	4	2	4	10	1	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
(332)	440	3	1	3	8	1	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
(332)	460	2	1	2	6	1	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
(332)	480	1	1	1	4	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
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(332)	780	1	1	1	1	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
(332)	800	1	1	1	1	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
(332)	820	1	1	1	1	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
(332)	840	1	1	1	1	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
(332)	860	1	1	1	1	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
(332)	880	1	1	1	1	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
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(332)	960	1	1	1	1	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
(332)	980	1	1	1	1	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
(332)	1000	1	1	1	1	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
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(332)	1120	1	1	1	1	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
(332)	1140	1	1	1	1	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
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(332)	1440	1	1	1	1	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
(332)	1460	1	1	1	1	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
(332)	1480	1	1	1	1	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
(332)	1500	1	1	1	1	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
(332)	1520	1	1	1	1	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
(332)	1540	1	1	1	1	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
(332)	1560	1	1	1	1	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
(332)	1580	1	1	1	1	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
(332)	1600	1	1	1	1	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
(332)	1620	1	1	1	1	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
(332)	1640	1	1	1	1	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
(332)	1660	1	1	1	1	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
(332)	1680	1	1	1	1	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
(332)	1700	1	1	1	1	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
(332)	1720	1	1	1	1	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
(332)	1740	1	1	1	1	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
(332)	1760	1	1	1	1	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
(332)	1780	1	1	1	1	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
(332)	1800	1	1	1	1	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
(332)	1820	1	1	1	1	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
(332)	1840	1	1	1	1	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
(332)	1860	1	1	1	1	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
(332)	1880	1	1	1	1	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
(332)	1900	1	1	1	1	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
(332)	1920	1	1	1	1	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
(332)	1940	1	1	1	1	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
(332)	1960	1	1	1	1	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
(332)	1980	1	1	1	1	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
(332)	2000	1	1	1	1	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
(332)	2020	1	1</													

First Dealings August 8	Last Dealings August 29	Last Declaration November 10	For Settlement November 23
Call options were taken out on:	19/1/88 Bahrain	Brewery, Samson, Sui, Tyndal	
Eagle Trust, Norfolk Capital, Standard	Chartered	Feraprosok, Regien, Blue Arrow	
Edmond Holdings, TI Group, Casket	Kwik-Pit, A	Fisher, Clonide, Dares Estate	
Seers, United Biotech, BSR, GEC			
Pet & Cattle Color			



# Jaguar 'must cut costs to cope with currency losses'

By Daniel Ward, Motor Industry Correspondent

Sir John Egan, the Jaguar chairman, said yesterday that the company must follow the example of the Japanese and cut costs substantially to cope with adverse exchange rates in its important export markets.

However, he gave warning that in line with the Japanese, it could take Jaguar two or three years to achieve the improvements required before healthy profits returned. A 10 cent weakening in the dollar against the pound cuts \$35 million from Jaguar's profits.

"We have no alternative but to cut costs and it is the biggest challenge facing us," Sir John said. "I don't know whether we will get the unions to understand but the men on the shopfloor do."

Jaguar has ensured in recent years that its workers are the best paid in the industry but as it faces pay talks in the autumn, the chairman said: "Right now is not the time to be expecting substantial improvements in the standard of living for Jaguar employees."

Productivity is no longer stuck at four cars per man per year and has improved to 4.5, although Sir John emphasized

that it still lagged behind Mercedes and BMW. "I don't believe we have ever been cost-effective and we have to improve to the level of our rivals," he added.

Improvements will not be limited to the factory floor. Sir John said changes had to be made throughout the whole managerial process. "We will have to undergo a big internal revolution in order to improve." There will be new pressure on capital investment programmes to produce financial benefits earlier than planned.

The weak demand for imported cars in America was because buyers were adjusting to the price increases the European makers had made to compensate for the weaker dollar, Sir John said. The 1988 forecast for US sales has been cut back and the aim is to bring delivery and stocks in all markets into line.

Half the improvement in Jaguar sales this year will come from Britain where more than 14,000 sales will be achieved, representing a doubling of registrations in two years.



Facing the cost challenge: Sir John Egan, Jaguar chairman

## SIB seeks tighter rules on liability

By John Bell, City Editor

The Securities and Investments Board, the industry watchdog, is proposing to tighten its rules to protect private investors.

The SIB wants to ban clauses in client agreements which restrict or remove the liability of investment firms to their clients in cases where SIB rules are breached. A proposed rule would prevent such clauses in customer agreements after October 3.

Thereafter firms authorized by the SIB will be prohibited from using exclusion clauses. The change is one of several set out in a consultative document yesterday. Other proposed rule amendments include an extension of the "best endeavours" rule, designed to enable authorized firms to show they had taken all reasonable steps to comply

with the SIB's conduct of business rules. The changes would apply to dealing with professional investors and would not affect the rights of private investors.

Mr David Walker, the SIB chairman, said the proposals included provisions designed to mitigate concern in the industry over possible litigation from professional clients and to enhance private investor protection. "In particular, the ban on exclusion clauses should reduce potential confusion and the risk of disadvantage to private investors."

The customer agreement was intended to inform and protect private investors, not to provide investment firms with a means of circumventing or avoiding their obligations to clients, he added.

Family Money, page 30

## Ecobric calls for rescue bid support

By Our City Staff

Ecobric, the loss-making demolition group quoted on the USM, faces the threat of receivership unless its shareholders back a \$9 million rescue bid from Zurich, the private property development group.

Marler Estates, which owns 69 per cent of Ecobric and supports the bid, said if the offer did not succeed it would withdraw its financial backing.

Zurich is mounting a reverse takeover bid for Ecobric but needs 90 per cent support from all the shareholders to secure a listing on the USM.

So far only 66 per cent of the loan stockholders have supported the offer. Zurich extended the bid for another 21 days until September 9.

One of its advisers said: "Loan stockholders are being offered slightly below par for

their stock. We think it is a generous offer in the circumstances. The company has heavy borrowings and unless the bid goes through the receiver will be called in."

Ecobric said yesterday: "If the offer does not proceed then given Ecobric's present financial position and the effect which the withdrawal of Marler's support will have on its continuing ability to raise funds, the board of Ecobric will have to consider whether it is necessary to apply for appointment of a receiver."

"At the last balance sheet date, Ecobric had net liabilities of £1.7 million. In view of this and the fact that, on a break-up basis, the book value of assets is unlikely to be realized, returns to shareholders and stockholders are likely to be minimal."

## Berisford £33m offer for Billingsgate

By Cliff Feltham

S&W Berisford, the food and commodities conglomerate, has launched a £33.5 million offer for the preferred share capital of Billingsgate City Securities, whose only asset is Midland Montagu House, an office building in the City.

The bid effectively ends the experiment of floating single asset property vehicles on the London stock market.

Berisford owns all the ordinary shares in Billingsgate and has been trying to support the price of the preferred shares since they were floated in London in June. But

Berisford admitted yesterday the idea had flopped.

"No similar issues have been made and the market has suffered from a lack of sustained interest and liquidity," it said.

"Furthermore the recent reviews on the property take place only at five-yearly intervals (the next review not being due until March 1990) which has not assisted in generating interest in the Billingsgate preferred shares."

Berisford, through its Swiss offshoot Erlanger, has built up a 22 per cent stake in the

preferred shares by endeavouring to support the price and has now offered 130p a share in cash for the balance.

Bishopsgate Investment Management - part of the Maxwell Communication Corporation - has pledged its 29.9 per cent giving Berisford 52 per cent. The shares were originally issued at 100p each.

One of Berisford's advisers said that no decision had been taken as to the future of Midland Montagu House which is producing a rental income of £5 million a year. The 185,000 sq ft property

was valued at £110 million by Debenham Tewson & Chinnocks this year. But Berisford, which has recently sold Princess House, near Cannon Street Station in the City for £43 million, could well decide to keep the building in its property portfolio.

S&W Berisford is buying Single Service, a portion packed food supplier, owned by its own management and Sketcheley, the dry cleaners, for an undisclosed sum. In the year ended April 1988 Single Services had a turnover of £4.4 million.

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## Fitzwilton in £6.8m cash and carry deal

By Wolfgang Muehchan

Fitzwilton, the Dublin-based investment holding company headed by Mr Tony O'Reilly, has moved into the cash and carry market through its acquisition of 85 per cent of the share capital of Roy Hall Cash & Carry, in an agreed bid worth £6.8 million (£6.8 million).

A spokesman for the company said Fitzwilton intends to transform Roy Hall, which operates one store in Manchester, into a nationwide chain of cash and carry businesses.

Fitzwilton has also announced it is raising £25 million to pursue further acquisitions. Of the amount, £120 million will be raised through a share placing, while the remaining £15 million will come from a one-for-10 rights issue of 3.5 million shares at a price of £1.35.

It is believed that the funds will be used primarily to extend the company's exposure in the distribution and food sector. Last year the company bought a 30 per cent in The Keep Trust, a motor distribution and leasing business, which has since been changed into a new company, Norfolk Finance.

The announcement of the placing and the Roy Hall takeover coincided with the company's interim results, which saw pre-tax profits surge from £1570,000 to £19.9 million in the six months ended June. Earnings per share went up from £1.75 to £4.01.

The company has announced a second interim dividend of 1p.

## Bond's HK firm leaps to £39m

Bond Corporation International, Mr Alan Bond's Hong Kong investment vehicle, yesterday reported after-tax profits of HK\$325.1 million (£39.56 million) for the six months ending June 30, almost three times the 1987 interim figure.

The profits were boosted by the sale in June of the firm's residential property portfolio for HK\$385 million more than the HK\$1 billion he paid for it 19 months earlier. The interim dividend is 3 cents against last year's 2.3 cents.

## Airline denies ticket charges

American Airlines, said complaints by Texas Air Corp about American's computerized reservation system were without foundation. Earlier Texas Air said three of its subsidiaries have filed charges with the Department of Transportation, alleging that American and United Airlines are illegally diverting passengers from Texas Air companies through misuse of their computerized reservations.

## Bank boost

The Hang Seng Bank announced profits for the six months ending June 30, up 17 per cent to HK\$483.6 million (£36.44 million). An interim dividend of 28 cents per share is being paid, 17 per cent more than in 1987 after taking into account a one-for-four scrip issue in April.

## £2m cash call

Shareholders in Colographics, the USM-quoted printer, have approved a rights issue of 1 million shares. Existing shareholders took up 32 per cent of the offer, the remainder was placed with institutions. The issue raised £2.14 million.

## Rights agreed

Shareholders in Campbell and Armstrong, the USM-quoted shopfitters, gave the go-ahead for a rights issue of 1.33 million shares at an extraordinary general meeting. The company said 95.6 per cent of the issue was taken up, the rest sold in the market.

## Bath buyout

BM Group, the engineering subsidiary of the CH Beazer housebuilding group, is selling its Bath Plant Hire Services business to its directors for £5 million.

## NZ wire sale

The state-owned Telecom Corp of New Zealand has sold its national telegram service to Freightways Group for an undisclosed price.

## COMMENT

## Shares offer value but may still be spurned

Monday's sharp drop in share prices was enough to turn SBCI Savory Mill's chartist Richard Lake into a (moderate) bear. He concluded that the general uptrend in the FT-SE 100 share index since November was beginning to break and the index might come back down to 1,700. For the rest of the week, it recovered right back to 1,844.

But the big institutional managers will certainly be asking themselves some searching questions when they pick up their buckets and spades and return to make their autumn investment decisions.

The race between the Chancellor's anti-overheating measures and the impatience of currency dealers still looks more likely to be won by the pound-bashers. If that turns out to be true, the markets will be looking for further substantial rises in interest rates instead of regarding the recent 3.5 point rise as a necessary but temporary measure.

But last October's crash taught investors to pay more attention to fundamentals and not just the follow-my-leader trends. After dithering about over the summer, the index still stands at about the same level as 18 months ago - just before the final hectic 30 per cent rise.

While share prices may be the same as 18 months ago, the fundamentals look remarkably different. In February 1987 the average share sold at more than 16 times earnings. Now it sells at 12½ times, thanks to buoyant profits. On Wall Street, which has been slavishly followed by London, the average

price/earnings ratio has come down from 20 to 14.

At the same time, the dividend yield on the all-share index has risen from 3.6 per cent to 4.3 per cent. That is a particularly important measure because personal tax changes and takeover threats have made boards much more eager to boost their dividend payments. Among successful companies, 20 per cent dividend rises have become almost the norm. Dividends are likely to keep going up strongly even if earnings growth slackens.

If shares are cheaper than they were at the same price 18 months ago, they are also more attractive relative to bonds. Yields on long-dated gilt stock have come down from about 9.8 per cent to about 9.5 per cent. But the maximum earnings yield on shares (distributable earnings per share as a percentage of share price) has risen from less than 8 per cent to 10 per cent. How different the story was at the peak of the share boom!

One feature was the same 18 months ago. Base rates stood at 11 per cent then as now. But British short-term interest rates were just beginning a long spring slide down to 8.5 per cent, which helped fuel the spectacular last gasp of the bull market. Unlikely as it may have seemed three months ago, when three-month money could cost as little as 7.5 per cent, base rates could well still be heading up from 11 per cent now.

If that happened, the bears would surely be in charge. But canny long-term investors would take the opportunity to look for good value in shares.

## An Irish situation

Shareholders in Irish Distillers Group have every reason to be grateful to Peter Sutherland, the former Irish law officer who is flexing his muscles as the EEC's Competition Commissioner. That is a somewhat unusual result of political interference.

As part of his campaign for European merger pre-vetting powers, Mr Sutherland intervened to stop the consortium of Grand Metropolitan, Allied-Lyons and Guinness bidding for IDG. It was one of the few instances where he could, at present, act before rather than after the event. He could do so because the three drinks companies had formed a cartel.

In practise, the three had come together to share out Irish Distillers' brands. Whatever the distilling arrangements (about which Mr Sutherland was unhappy), the monopoly in the Irish whiskey industry would, therefore, have been broken and competition introduced - undoubtedly to the benefit of the industry's total sales.

The cartel was good for the customer. But it would have been bad for shareholders, since it effectively ruled out the competitive bidding that has so enriched the shareholders of companies, such as Martell, which own international drinks brands.

Shareholders now have a higher bid from GrandMet, thanks to a sensible ruling by the City Takeover Panel. There is also the possibility of competing bids from other parties whose interest has meanwhile been aroused.

GrandMet would, however, be free to keep more of the Irish whiskey market than under the cartel arrangement, though any brand sales will now have to be made to the highest bidder. As it turns out, GrandMet has decided to sell Bushmills, Power's Gold label and Tullamore Dew if it succeeds, keeping only Jameson and Paddy of IDG's whiskey brands. So there would be just as much competition in the whiskey market. But that is no thanks to Mr Sutherland.

ADVERTISEMENT

## Town & Country top for efficiency

TOWN & COUNTRY is Britain's most efficient building society according to a league table drawn up by John Wrigglesworth, analyst at stockbroker, Phillips & Drew.

The ranking may serve as a guide for future buyers of shares in building societies now they have been given the freedom to convert into public companies and float on the Stock Exchange.

Only one society, the Abbey National, has so far said it will convert.

It will therefore remain a private company, but its London-based executive, that is, its London-based society is ranked as the second best performing building society, according to Mr Wrigglesworth's financial criteria.

In third place comes Chelsea & Gloucester, the society.

By Robert Peston  
Banking Correspondent

city thought most likely to follow Abbey National's lead by trying to go public, came fifth.

Mr Wrigglesworth analysed the 1987 performance of the 16 largest building societies.

Each of the societies was ranked on the basis of 12 different financial yardsticks, such as return on capital and return on assets.

Town & Country was the top performing society on most measures of productivity and efficiency.

In 1987, the rate of Town & Country's pre-tax profits to its main capital was 35 per cent, which compares favourably with any financial institution in Britain.

The Independent, Monday 15th August 1988

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(VOLUMES: PAGE 24)

Time	50	51	40		175
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100 (ml)	125	125	0		
100 (ml) 100	438	438	0	13.3	3.0 9.9







# How this new Act is casting a cloud

Investment companies have been forced by the Financial Services Act to stop helping brokers to solve their clients' tax or investment problems.

Sun Life Trust Managers, for instance, used to have a whole department dedicated to giving brokers free advice on the investment scene. It used to advise on the areas in which to invest at the outset and give half-yearly written reports and recommendations for switching. But all this has had to stop.

Lautro, the Life Assurance and Unit Trust Regulatory Organisation, says it amounts to a benefit to the broker that might bias his advice.

So Lautro bans companies from giving marketing support other than items that appear on a list. Rule 4.5 says that seminars, literature, software for quotations, or direct quotations, reasonable entertainment and gifts up to the value of £25 are permitted. Anything that does not appear on the list such as help with sorting out the inheritance tax problems of a client or insight into world markets is forbidden.

David Miller, Lautro's deputy chief executive, says: "It is the broker's responsibility to do the analysis and advise his clients. That is his function. That is what he is paid for."

So Sun Life can run only the broker advisory service if the broker is willing to pay for the service. But unless brokers start charging their customers fees, it is unlikely that this will prove a popular option.

Instead, Sun Life will be launching a discretionary unit trust management service next month for which clients will have to pay. This will cost 1 per cent with a minimum fee of £150 a year. So it will not be a reasonable option for those investing less than £15,000. The fees are negotiable for those investing large sums.

The holdings will be in a nominee account and there will be quarterly reports and capital and income statements at the end of the tax year.

Jennifer Heaven, manager of the service, says it is not the service that used to be available to brokers, but a more streamlined one aimed at private clients.

It is possible that funds outside Sun Life could be used - for instance, if Miss Heaven



wanted to put clients into gold, as Sun Life does not have a gold unit trust. "But we cannot pretend that we are independent," she says.

The initial charge at Sun Life is being raised to 5.75 per cent but clients in the discretionary management service will get a discount of at least 3 per cent.

## Investors may well be worse off

However, all the clients who previously had the benefit of investment advice from Sun Life will have to pay for it and brokers who perhaps do only a small amount of investment work and feel the need to call on greater expertise will no longer be able to do so. It is difficult to see how investors will be better off.

Equity & Law also used to

run a unit for helping brokers, mainly on complex tax problems. The chief actuary Duncan Kerr said: "We have stopped that activity - rather reluctantly because the ruling was that it would be providing a benefit to brokers."

The unit now provides general advice but will not deal with the specific problems of individuals. "This rule has withdrawn from the market a pool of expertise which was available," said Mr Kerr.

Equity & Law has left Camilla, the Campaign for Independent Financial Advice, and is beginning to recruit tied salesmen. The in-house lawyers will be able to give help to tied salesmen but not independent brokers.

But at Prudential Holborn, the Pru's unit trust arm, the chief executive Alan Wren takes a more pragmatic atti-

tude. "My feet are firmly planted on the ground and I take a commonsense approach," he says. "We would not refuse to help brokers. I can't think that is what the rules meant to happen."

Prudential Holborn does not have a team dedicated to helping brokers, but its technical experts are on hand to help out, particularly on

## Answers will be in general terms

pensions, where the technicalities can be extremely complex.

So if a broker presents a particular problem on a particular client, the Pru experts will look at it and give their answers in general terms - but clearly aimed at solving the individual's problems.

Vivien Goldsmith

As demand slackens, banks, building societies and the Government are offering incentives

Mortgage lenders are now throwing money at people to encourage them to borrow.

The National Westminster Bank announced this week that it will give £200 to anyone who takes up a mortgage applied for from next Monday until September 22. Completion must take place before March 31, 1989.

The Abbey National Building Society has introduced a similar scheme to pull in re-mortgage business for people with mortgages of £60,000 or more. The re-mortgages must be completed by September 30. Borrowers are offered reimbursement of costs connected with the re-mortgage up to £250 plus a free valuation.

The Abbey National already charges 0.5 percentage points less on mortgages of £60,000 and re-mortgage customers will get the same lower rate of 11 per cent compared with the society's standard rate of 11.5 per cent.

Announcements of the schemes coincide with figures from the Building Societies Association indicating that

# The big lenders who are asking you to borrow

mortgage demand is slackening. Although gross mortgage advances rose to £5.4 billion in July, reflecting the rush by single buyers to beat the August 1 restriction on tax relief, commitments to lend fell from £5.7 billion in June to £5.4 billion in July.

The association notes that the impending limit on tax relief undoubtedly dragged forward many purchases but it says: "The commitments figure for July may have been influenced by the recent significant increase in mortgage lending rates."

It is likely that this will contribute to a more moderate rate of lending during the

second half of the year."

Increasing pressure in the market will continue to prompt special deals from the lenders. Although the money-back offers from the Abbey National and NatWest probably are the most aggressive marketing ploys adopted so far, there are many other discounts and special schemes available.

Lloyds Bank has just closed its offer of a fixed-rate mortgage at 10.9 per cent. But new endowment and pension mortgages qualify for a 0.5 percentage point discount on the bank's standard rate of 11.5 per cent until February 28 next year.

The pension or endowment policy must come from Lloyds' insurance arm Black Horse Life. People taking up this offer can also enter a competition in which the bank is giving away £130,000 towards new homes.

The Skipton Building Society has started what it calls a cost-cutting mortgage. Borrowers are guaranteed a 0.5 percentage point cut on the society's standard rate for the first 12 months of the loan. The present rate on the new scheme is 10.9 per cent. The minimum advance is £25,000 and advances can go up to 95 per cent of valuation.

Many lenders now offer special rates on larger loans, turning the old practice of charging more for larger loans on its head. With the average national house price now at around £60,000 the Skipton will be offering the special rate to most of its borrowers.

Most of the larger loan discounts start on mortgages of £50,000 or £60,000.

Maria Scott

## Bait for young house owners

The Homeloan Scheme provides a tax-free bonus of up to £110 and an interest-free loan of £600 for up to five years to help first-timers to climb on to the property ladder, writes Conal Gregory. Both sums are government handouts.

To qualify you must save for at least two years, telling the savings institution when you start that you are joining the scheme. Earlier savings cannot qualify. Building societies, banks, friendly societies, National Girobank, National Savings and Ulster Savings are participating.

One full year before you want the cash bonus, you must have amassed at least £300. A sum of £500 means a £60 bonus, while £1,000 or more gives a cash sum of £110. The bonus is tax-free and on top of the interest on your savings. It is paid by the institution providing the mortgage.

A minimum of £600 must have been saved before you apply for the benefit. The interest-free loan for up to five years is usually added to the normal loan. For example, if you are buying a house for £23,000 and are offered a mortgage of £20,000, the extra £600 loan means you need to find only £2,400.

If the home is sold or if the loan is redeemed within five years, the £600 tax-free loan must be returned to the lender.

The scheme is intended specifically for first-time purchasers. Neither husband nor wife should have owned a home in the UK. The buyer must have the intention of occupying the home as the only or main residence within a year of purchase.

Assistance is available only to those buying houses, flats, maisonettes and bungalows. The scheme does not extend to mobile homes or houseboats.

One of the key qualifications is that you are buying a home which costs no more than the "price limit" for the region. The limits are intended to allow about two-thirds of first-time buyers to qualify. The regional range is reviewed after consultation with building societies and the new limits were set on March 18.

In the past two years more than 6,000 first-time buyers have benefited from the scheme in England and Wales. Promotional material is available through banks and building societies.

Additional information can be obtained from the Department of the Environment, Room N11/14, 2 Marsham Street, London SW1P 3EB; in Wales from the Welsh Office, Housing Division, Cathays Park, Cardiff CF1 3NQ; in Scotland from the Scottish Development Department, Room 420, St Andrew's House, Edinburgh EH1 3DD; and in Ulster from the Department of the Environment for Northern Ireland, Room 426, Parliament Buildings, Stormont, Belfast BT4 3SS.

## PRICE LIMITS

ENGLAND	
Northern region	£25,600
Yorkshire and Humberside	£25,800
East Midlands	£30,300
East Anglia	£38,400
London	£63,000
Rest of South-East	£51,800
West Midlands	£28,300
North-West	£26,800
South-West	£38,200
WALES	£27,200
SCOTLAND	£30,400
NORTHERN IRELAND*	£28,200

\* Limit set from September 1, 1987. All other levels set from March 18, 1988

## THE VIEW TO 1992

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To: Brenda Hardy, FREEPOST, TSB Unit Trusts Limited, Gilt Fund Prospectus, Andover, Hampshire SP10 1BR. (no stamp needed)

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Proposed Investment \_\_\_\_\_

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## FAMILY MONEY

# Baring all to your broker

Stockbrokers were not the original group to be accused of doing good to other people who could be identified by their hunted look. But that is how at least some of their clients now regard them, in the wake of the new rules laid down by the Financial Services Act.

Celia Haynes, who lives in the West Country, feels the questionnaire her broker has sent her treats her like a police suspect.

"I've had a perfectly satisfactory relationship with Albert E. Sharp in Birmingham, who have handled a small amount of family money over the years," she says. "Recently out of the blue, I received a full questionnaire. It didn't just cover investment objectives or whether I wanted to concentrate on capital or income."

"The firm also demanded to know about my other savings and insurance policies, my job, nationality and date of birth. What is more, it asked for the name of my bank and solicitors, and implied the

### 'It all smacked of Gestapo methods'

firm would not act for me unless I gave all the details.

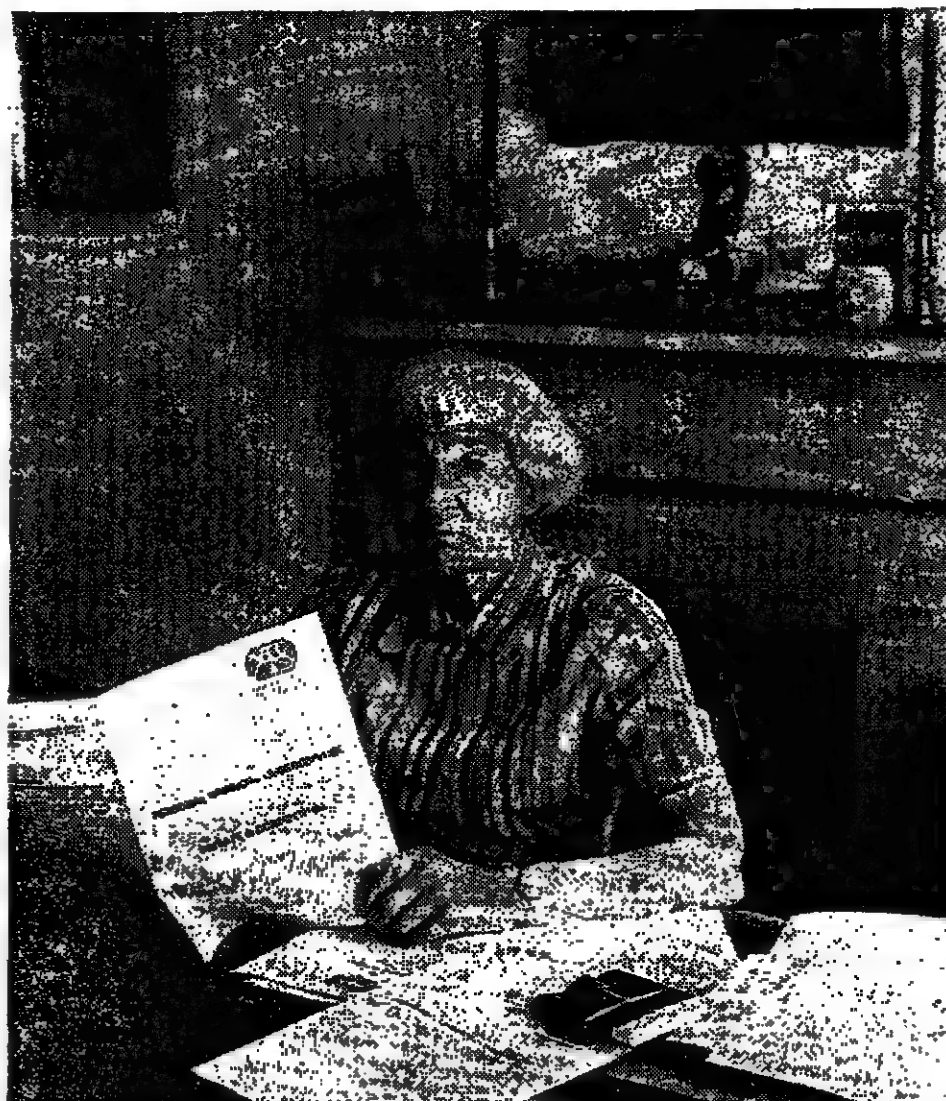
"It smacked of a Gestapo interrogation, as I told them."

Albert E. Sharp may be a stockbroking group, but it also runs a financial services division. Both sides of the group are bound by the Financial Services Act's insistence that they must know their clients' circumstances and give best advice - hence the letters.

The group belongs to two of the self-regulating organizations that supervise the detailed working of the Act.

Wearing its stockbroking hat, Albert E. Sharp is a member of the Securities Association (TSA) but it also belongs to the Financial Intermediaries and Brokers Regulatory Organisation (Fimbra), which covers financial advisers.

TSA says down that its members must set out exactly what they do, so that if they are market-makers you will be aware of any potential conflicts of interest, and it insists that brokers should also ask



Celia Haynes: "They asked for information about my savings, nationality, bank, solicitors"

their clients for their investment objectives and whether there are countries or investment areas they want to avoid. South Africa and the arms trade are the obvious pair.

Fimbra has a more relaxed approach. Members must know their clients' circumstances and follow the best advice rule but Fimbra leaves its members to work out what they should and should not ask to get there.

"We've got to have proper detail if we are to take an overall view of some clients' needs," says Ian Sollen, of Barclayshare.

"Say someone suggests that he puts £5,000 into some

small high-risk, high-tech company. That may be fine, if he has some very broad holdings elsewhere. But the case is very different if he's only got building society money and has two sets of school fees to pay."

### 'Almost every broker has a nightmare'

That sounds fair enough, but inevitably some brokers have gone for a belt-and-braces approach, as much to protect themselves as anyone else. After all, they are dealing with totally new and untried legislation.

"Almost every broker has the same nightmare at the back of his mind," claims Malcolm Murray, of Albert E. Sharp.

"It is the disgruntled client who returns long after making the original investment, perhaps when all the original staff who knew of him and his circumstances have gone. We need not just to give best advice, but to show that we gave best advice for his circumstances in retrospect."

"Inevitably that means making an assessment of his needs in detail."

Miss Haynes certainly is not alone in objecting to the detail. Many stockbrokers

have had complaints about the forms they have sent out, and demands that relationships should continue as before, without all the extra formalities.

Fred Carr, marketing director of Capel Cure Myers Investment Management, one of the biggest City groups dealing with private clients, worked out a neat ploy to encourage people to fill in their forms.

"We did our best to soften people up by telling them the questionnaires were coming, and that they had to return them signed if we were to act for them," he says.

"But we also offered a draw. Everyone who completed and returned them within a month of their going out had their names put into a draw. We drew three names from the electronic hat, providing the winner with £1,000 in travel vouchers, with a couple of other prizes. But still quite a number of the forms have not come back."

The formal agreement sent out by Scrimgeour Vickers

### SIB is tightening up on the wording

contains about 90 clauses in small print, though - Barclayshare has managed to fit its conditions on to two sides of paper.

Despite the length and apparent depth of the contents of client agreement letters it has now become apparent that some of them are doing the opposite job to the one intended for them.

The Securities and Investments Board (SIB) announced yesterday that it is planning to tighten up on the wording investment companies can use in client agreement letters.

Some companies have caused concern to the SIB by incorporating clauses in their agreement letters that attempt to restrict their liability through branches of the SIB rule book.

It is understood that the main offenders have been stockbrokers. The SIB wants to ban such clauses from October 3. And from that date any such clauses in existing letters will not be valid.

Tom Tickell

## Another property case for lawyers

Glasgow solicitors Neill Clerk are following their launch of Britain's first residential Business Expansion Scheme company, Norcity Homes, with a similar BES issue, writes Maria Scott.

Glasgow Merchant City Homes (GMCH) aims to raise £2 million. The subscription list opens on Monday and closes on September 22. The shares are £1 and the minimum investment is £1,000.

GMCH will invest in rented properties, aiming at business people on short- or medium-term contracts, young couples saving to buy, elderly people who have moved from larger homes, and people who simply prefer to rent rather than buy.

Ross Macdonald, Neill Clerk's senior corporate finance partner, says the properties will be in a more expensive part of Glasgow. GMCH has conditionally earmarked its first property in Merchant City, an area that is being "gentrified".

Mr Macdonald believes Glasgow is ideal for BES residential property schemes as prices are still relatively low. Initial yields of 12-15 per cent a year can be obtained on good Glasgow properties.

The two companies are expected to be the first of a wave of such businesses launched in the wake of this year's Budget, which limited the amount that can be raised through the BES to £500,000, except for companies investing in rented residential property and ship-charters. The limit here is put at £5 million, partly to encourage an increase in the amount of private property available for rent.

Legislation to implement assured tenancies, which overcomes many of the restrictions of the Rent Acts and relaxes rules on security of tenure, will not be in place until January, so GMCH will not put in its first tenants before then. England's first assured tenancy property BES company will be launched next Tuesday. First Cambridge's investment will be in East Anglia, where house prices have risen by as much as 50 per cent in a year. It will aim to fill demand for rented accommodation from employees in the area's high-tech businesses.

First Cambridge will attempt to raise the maximum £5 million. It is being sponsored by veteran BES sponsor Chanory Securities, recently re-named Chanory.

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## FAMILY MONEY

## Best buys for income in a mean-looking market

Anyone who is looking to invest for income may be feeling peeved about the rates of return being offered despite the seven increases in base rates since June.

Building society rates are edging upwards, though they are not as generous as they might have been if the societies had not been flush with cash. The same is true of National Savings, where the pressure is off to finance government borrowing.

"Income is a problem," says Stephen Lansdown, investment director of Hargreaves Lansdown Asset Management. "Interest rates have not gone back to the levels we saw four or five years ago."

"People who are coming out of guaranteed income bonds which were taken out then are disappointed that they cannot replace them with something paying a similar rate. We are certainly not back to the days of 14 per cent net on guaranteed income bonds that we saw in the early 1980s."

National Savings Income Bonds are among the most popular sources of regular income for non-taxpayers,

who can tie their capital up for at least a year. The interest rate is 9 per cent gross at the moment, and to the dismay of many loyal income bond investors it has not shifted since May 1 this year.

Paul Boni, a director of intermediary Berry Birch & Noble, says the rate on National Savings income bonds should really be more than 10 per cent now.

The 9 per cent gross paid by them compares with 9 per cent net of basic-rate tax, guaranteed for five years by the

## Guaranteed income bonds are a gamble

new guaranteed income bond launched by Regency Life last week. The minimum investment is £1,000. The rate is slightly reduced if you decide to have your income paid out twice yearly rather than once.

Although this looks like a good deal, guaranteed income bonds always involve a gamble. Interest rates generally could go even higher, making the 9 per cent look like a mean payout.

So the disadvantage is inflexibility. Mr Lansdown's recommendation is the investment adviser's favourite: "Don't put all your eggs in one basket." If you are looking for security and like the look of the rate it is probably best to hedge your bets and commit a portion of money to such a bond, but not all of it.

Those wanting more flexibility and maximum security can go no further than a building society. The Building Society Choice magazine reports that the top rate now available on monthly income accounts is 8.5 per cent net on the Birmingham Midshires Quantum Sixty account, which has a two-month notice period and a £25,000 minimum investment limit.

The Chesnut pays the same rate on its Special 90 Shares account but there is a three-month notice period. The minimum investment for this is £20,000.

Michael Beggs, managing director of Brown Shipley Asset Management, says investors looking for a home for fresh money, whether they want to invest for income or

not, can do far worse than put it on deposit at the moment, waiting "until things become a bit clearer".

Although gilts are a popular choice among income-seekers, he counsels caution. If interest rates go up again, today's prices will look expensive. With yields of 9.3 to 9.4 per cent gross on long-dated stocks, money is probably better left on deposit for the time being.

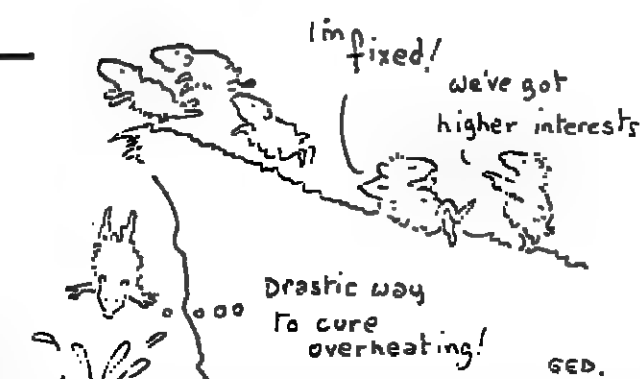
Offshore gilt funds can offer more attractive yields, now nudging 12 per cent, but to

## Combined annuity and investment

offer this level of yield capital is eroded, so these are not for those who need security.

And there is always the need for care when buying offshore. You can cut the risk by choosing a fund run by a subsidiary of a well-known British-based institution.

Towry Law quotes an average yield over the past five years on its High Rise income unit trust portfolio of 10 per cent gross, although people



who have stayed in for all that time are now getting 15 per cent gross on their original investment.

Clerical Medical quietly launched a product called Double Decker in the spring that pays as much as 11.57 per cent net, depending on the investor's circumstances. This combines the purchase of an annuity with investment in Clerical Medical's Equity High Income unit trust. A third of the initial investment, for which the minimum is £4,000, goes towards buying the annuity and two-thirds into the unit trust.

The aim is that capital growth in the unit trusts will be large enough to repay the original capital.

The total return depends on prevailing annuity rates and the age of the investor. Earlier this week Clerical Medical quoted 9.14 per cent a year net for a man aged 75. The return could be increased substantially by taking all income from the unit trusts.

For the 75-year-old man

Clerical Medical quotes 11.57 per cent in the first year if this route is taken. It bases the 11.57 per cent on the income it projects for the unit trusts during the next 12 months. It expects this to rise in following years, although this cannot be guaranteed.

Milking the income, however, means reducing the amount available for capital growth and reducing the likelihood of the original capital being returned.

Gilts, unit trusts and the type of product Clerical Medical has constructed all involve risk to capital and the yields are not guaranteed. Although they can work well for those who do not mind taking a long-term view and who understand the risks involved, they are not, of course, to everyone's taste.

It is little wonder that holders of National Savings Income Bonds are feeling sore about their failure to track the latest hike in interest rates.

Maria Scott

## BRIEFING

## All-season ski cover

Insurance broker Douglas Cox Tyne is launching what it claims is the first ski insurance package to offer cover for the whole season. It stipulates only that no one trip should last for more than 28 days. The premium is £55 for the "ordinary" package giving £50,000 medical cover, or £60 for the "super" package providing £250,000 medical cover.

There is a 40 per cent discount for those who ski only in Scotland and 30 per cent for cross-country skiing. The policy is underwritten through Lloyd's.

## Cutting errors

The Inland Revenue is

## Portfolio PLUS NEW Accumulator

For readers who may have missed a copy of *The Times* this week, we repeat below the week's *Portfolio* price changes (today's are on page 27).

	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun
1	+4	+4	+6	+4	+2		
2	+7	+5	+7	+7	+3		
3	+5	+4	+5	+6	+7		
4	+4	+2	+6	+2	+4		
5	+4	+3	+6	+5	+3		
6	+5	+2	+5	+3	+3		
7	+7	+6	+7	+7	+3		
8	+4	+2	+4	+6	+6		
9	+8	+5	+8	+6	+4		
10	+2	+3	+4	+4	+3		
11	+3	+2	+6	+5	+6		
12	+3	+4	+4	+3	+1		
13	+5	+3	+7	+3	+3		
14	+3	+2	+3	+5	+6		
15	+6	+5	+6	+6	+3		
16	+4	+1	+5	+2	+5		
17	+2	+3	+6	+3	+2		
18	+5	+2	+3	+4	+5		
19	+3	+4	+3	+5	+7		
20	+7	+7	+7	+6	+2		
21	+3	+3	+4	+3	+2		
22	+8	+1	+7	+2	+6		
23	+7	+6	+8	+5	+2		
24	+5	+5	+6	+4	+2		
25	+4	+2	+5	+2	+4		
26	+4	+2	+4	+6	+5		
27	+3	+3	+5	+3	+3		
28	+8	+6	+5	+8	+2		
29	+3	+2	+4	+4	+6		
30	+3	+1	+6	+1	+4		
31	+7	+7	+5	+6	+2		
32	+6	+2	+5	+6	+7		
33	+3	+3	+6	+2	+3		
34	+3	+4	+6	+3	+2		
35	+6	+5	+5	+5	+3		
36	+4	+2	+4	+4	+6		
37	+3	+2	+7	+3	+6		
38	+7	+5	+3	+5	+3		
39	+4	+6	+4	+5	+1		
40	+3	+2	+5	+2	+3		
41	+2	+6	+4	+5	+1		
42	+8	+7	+4	+7	+4		
43	+3	+3	+5	+2	+3		
44	+3	+2	+3	+5	+5		

instructing that the tax assessments of the self-employed should be more accurate. The system for calculating tax for the self-employed is being computerized following a successful pilot scheme in Wales and the eastern counties. One big advantage, according to the Revenue, is that there is less chance of arithmetical error. Information on the tax demands will also be clearer and, because all files will be held on computer, it will take less time to answer telephone queries.

## Changing up

NEL Britannia has joined the many companies in permanent health insurance that reserve the right to raise premiums during the life of the policy. With NEL's new policy rates rise every five years. Premium levels are geared to age, and every time a review is due the policyholder is charged the premium now applicable to that age. NEL Britannia is suggesting the pit by offering a 20 per cent discount when the review comes up, to persuade policyholders to persevere with the scheme. Up to 75 per cent of annual income can be covered, with an option to have this uprated every five years to reflect inflation.

## Gas on tape

British Gas has produced a 13-minute tape-recorded message giving the main features of the 1988 annual report. The cassette is aimed at visually handicapped shareholders but is available to anyone who prefers to absorb the information this way. It can be obtained free from the British Gas shareholders' inquiry office on 01-834 2000.

## Holiday cash

Alliance & Leicester Building Society customers can now get Maltese pounds, Austrian schillings and 13 other foreign currencies, and travellers' cheques in 12 currencies. There is the usual 1 per cent commission charge on the Thomas Cook travellers' cheques and a £1 handling charge for £100 worth of currency or £500 worth of travellers' cheques plus currency, or £2 for sums of more than £500.

## Book to trust

*How to Make It*, the annual guide to investment trusts published by the Association of Investment Trust Companies, provides explanatory chapters on what investment trusts are and how they work. There is also a mass of useful information on individual investment trusts such as their investment policy, track record and who manages them. The book, published by Woodhead-Faulkner, costs £5.95.

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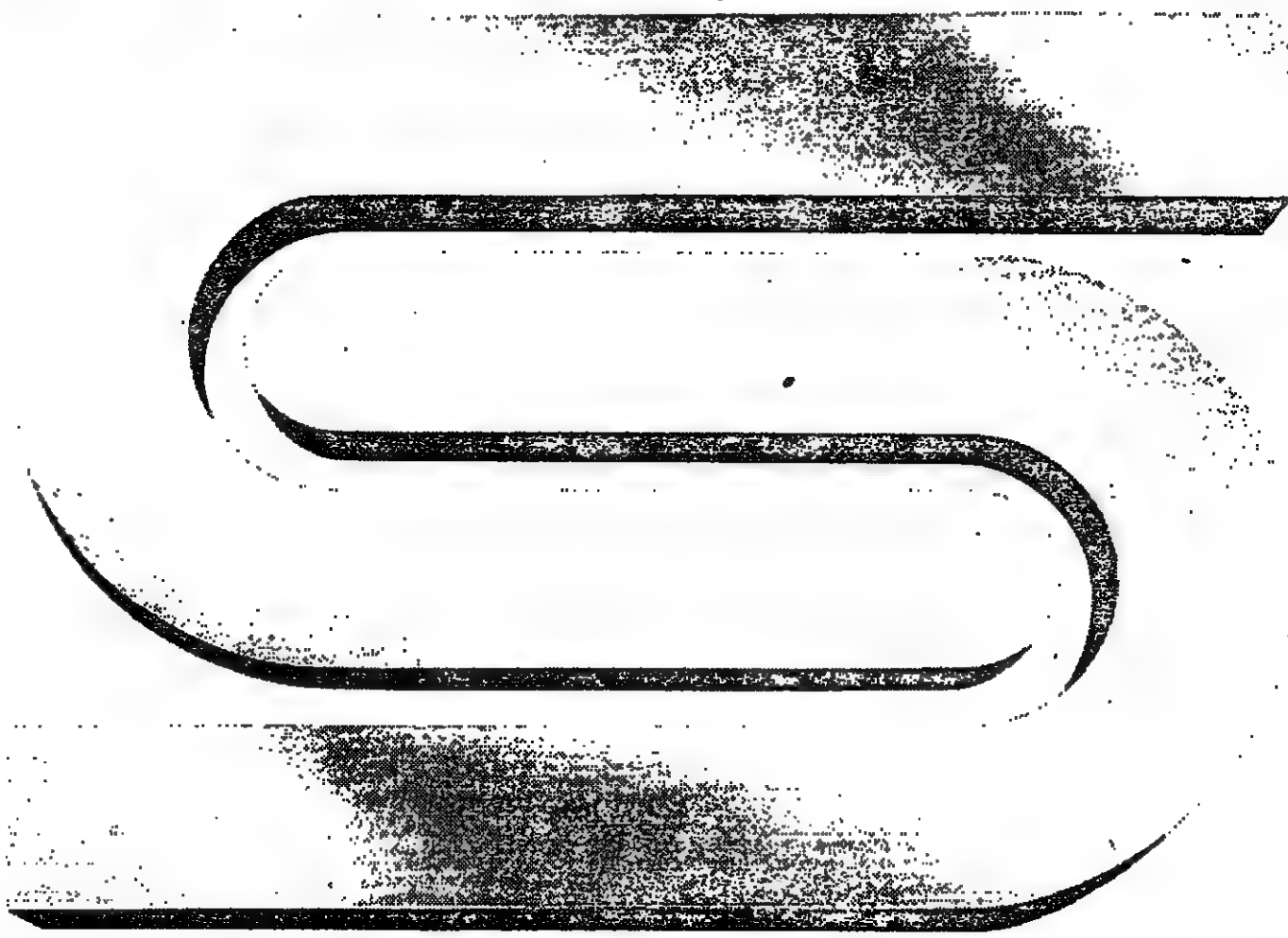
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## CYCLING

# Aerodynamic cycle assists Doyle's world title attempt

From Peter Bryan, Ghent, Belgium

The world track championships start here tomorrow in truncated form on the barely finished, new 250-metre wooden velodrome in the Blaasmeers sports complex as Olympic rules preclude events at Seoul being on the world programme. This male amateurs contest only the motor-paced title and the tandem sprint, while female competitors have to be content with the 3,000 metres pursuit.

The main interest, then, will be concentrated on the five professional events in which Tony Doyle's preoccupation will be to win his third 5,000 metres pursuit title on Tuesday, with the points race championship of importance to him but to a lesser degree.

Doyle, winner in 1980 and 1986, had an hour's training on the track yesterday, mainly behind motorcycle pace. His determination to regain the title is illustrated by the support group of seven which surrounds him: manager, trainer, doctor, psychologist, physiologist, mechanic and motorcycle pace.

Apart from that, Doyle has recently taken delivery of a

new machine in which the latest thinking in aerodynamics has been incorporated. The frame is almost child-size, only 17 inches, but a slim alloy seat pillar, 16 inches long, allows him the ultimate in a streamlined position.

One of his team offered the opinion that even in Olympic year Doyle is the fittest of all British sportsmen.

All Britain's amateurs will be in action tomorrow: the national motor-paced champion, Nick Lett and his runner-up, Nigel Brown, will be clocking 40mph in their heats and Sally Hodge and Carol Langley, rather more sedately, try to qualify for the quarter-finals of the pursuit.

Britain's entry in the motor-paced title is the result of the former Australian world champion rider, Ron Webb, who lives near London, starting regular training sessions at Leicester. Lett and Brown have both improved on their previous standards.

Lett has pace but, with no still competition, he may have to be content to treat this year's championship ride as a brush up his racing tactics.

Webb is now the world's foremost track builder; the Olympic bowl is one of the 30 tracks for which he has been responsible.

The Ghent track, which has been used recently for the Belgian Championships, already has its critics. A partial roof covering has been incorporated with the idea of rain continuing in even the heaviest downpour, but the planners appear to have overlooked the effects of turbulence which the design can cause and rain was blown on to its surface yesterday, making it unrideable.

The entry from the home straight into the 45-degree banking is considered by some riders to be too sharp and likely to produce crashes in the high speed tandem sprint, for which Britain has not entered a pair.

On the other hand, Michael Vaarten, of Belgium, 1986 winner of the keirin - a motor-paced sprint race in which the pacer shoots ahead to leave riders to fight out the final lap - says that it will favour the rider at the front when the pacer pulls away.

## POWERBOATING

## Chance for Curtis to make his mark

By Bryan Stiles

The bulk of the powerful European fleet roars into life of Poole Bay weekend in search of championship points that will establish who is good enough to polish the exhausts of Fabio Buzzi, the Italian who has already claimed the title as his own.

Buzzi will not be risking his all-conquering craft, Cesa, this weekend in the seventh round of the championship, and this, it is hoped, will allow Britain's world powerboat champion, Steve Curtis, to take advantage of racing in home waters to move up the table, and fine-tune his 38ft catamaran, Reporter, for the more important task of defending his world title in Guernsey next month.

The Southampton driver's highest placing this season is the second he achieved at Porto Cervo, but he has produced the fastest speeds of the summer.

Mechanical problems, inaccurate navigation and sheer bad luck have conspired to leave him languishing in sixth place in

the table. In a number of races he looked to be the biggest danger to Buzzi, but the latter conspired against him.

He has seen the Italian cross the line first on four occasions and twice, and had hoped he would be able to challenge the maestro at Poole this weekend.

Once again the championships have been dominated by the Italians, who enjoy enviable tax advantages when they buy new craft. It is a situation that encourages more to venture into competitive waters off Italy's coast.

The European crews will prove formidable opposition for the Southampton driver's highest placing this season is the second he achieved at Porto Cervo, but he has produced the fastest speeds of the summer.

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## EUROPEAN CHAMPIONSHIP PLACINGS

Driver	A	B	C	D	E	F	Total
F Buzzi (Italy)	300	400	400	300	400	400	2,200
S Curtis (Italy)	180	180	180	180	180	180	1,080
E Hall (Italy)	120	120	120	120	120	120	720
N Ruggieri (Italy)	40	40	40	40	40	40	240
S Curtis (Great Britain)	40	40	40	40	40	40	240
S Curtis (Italy)	40	40	40	40	40	40	240
S Curtis (Italy)	40	40	40	40	40	40	240
S Curtis (Italy)	40	40	40	40	40	40	240
S Curtis (Italy)	40	40	40	40	40	40	240
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\*A: St Tropez, B: Monte Carlo, C: Venezia, D: Porto Cervo, E: Catania, F: Viareggio.  
† Subject to alteration after disqualification at Viareggio.

## WEEKEND FIXTURES

CRICKET	Football
British Assurance Championship 11.0 unless stated, 110 overs minimum BRISTOL: Gloucestershire v Kent OLD TRAFFORD: Lancashire v Derby LEICESTER: Leicestershire v Somerset LONDON: Middlesex v Warwickshire WELLINGBOURNE: Northamptonshire v Glamorgan TRENT BRIDGE: Nottinghamshire v Surrey WOLVERHAMPTON: Worcestershire v Essex	FA Charity Shield Liverpool v Wimbledon (Wednesday) Premier division Aberdeen v St Mirren Dundee U v Celtic Hearts v Hibernian Motherwell v Dundee Rangers v Hibernian First division Aberdeen v St Mirren Dundee U v Celtic Hearts v Hibernian Motherwell v Dundee Rangers v Hibernian Second division Aberdeen v St Mirren Dundee U v Celtic Hearts v Hibernian Motherwell v Dundee Rangers v Hibernian

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## RUGBY LEAGUE

## Wigan on annual mission

By Keith Macklin

The sea front at Douglas has been besieged by cheerful groups of Wigan supporters from Wigan, who are making an annual holiday to watch the charity shield match, sponsored by Okeills Brewery, on the Isle of Man.

Tomorrow sees the fourth of these matches between the Challenge Cup holders and the champions: Wigan and Widnes. Wigan have reached the Douglas Bowl on three of those four occasions, the only hiccup being the 1986 game when Halifax and Wigan drew 10-10 in the final. Wigan beat Hull Kingston Rovers in 1985 and last year, they hammered Halifax.

Widnes make their first appearance and a crowd of more than 5,000 is expected, mostly from these northern towns, but with a strong sprinkling of curious Manxmen who have this annual chance to watch the sport outside television. Since Wigan and Widnes were the two most attractive and successful sides of last season, the five-runners game is expected.

Widnes include Tony Myler in their squad, but there is no place for Rugby Union, who is recovering from a broken leg. To complete a good record for Alf Gregory, the Wigan and Great Britain scrum half, he will receive an award sponsored by Gola for the outstanding sportsman of the month. It will be the first time that a rugby league player has received this honour.

## Cunnington pair hold key to Prix Morny

From Our French Racing Correspondent, Deauville

There are six English runners, spread across the four feature events, at Deauville over the weekend, but the major prize, the 247,600 Prix Morny (6f) for two-year-olds, is unlikely to be brought back across the Channel.

Ron Ross has engaged Pat Eddery to ride across France in the group one Morny, but he will be a definite outsider in the race, which has been assembled in France this year.

The winner is likely to be owned by Comtesse Margit Bathany, since the Jacky Cunningham-trained pair of Philippi (Alfred Gier) and Ecosais (Eric Legris) both run in her colours. They will be coupled for betting purposes, and will start in the region of 2-1.

Although Ecosais is rated better than Philippi at home, the latter took care of Superpower in the Prix Robert Papin last month. Superpower's subsequent success in the Heinz '57, with the highly-rated Tera behind, means that on form, at least, they all have Philippi to beat.

Later in the afternoon, both Rawnak (Eddery) and Persilant (Bruce Raymond) contest the 10-furlong Grand Prix de Fonds Européen de L'Elevage, a valuable listed race, worth £25,000 to the winner.

Today at Deauville, Eddery rides the pair of 2-1 favourites, the PRIX DE POMONE (13f), and Khalid Abdulla's filly has a fine chance of reversing Oaks form with likely favourite Indian Rose (Gary Moore) over the slightly longer trip. A Bahama joined by John Dunlop's Dutchess Best (Paul Cook).

There will be a five-runner English race on this afternoon at Phoenix Park meeting. The brightest prospects look to be Miss Secreta in the Debutante Fillies Stakes and Princess Athena in the Kneeshaw Phoenix Sprint Stakes.

A winner first time out at Goodwood, John Dunlop's Miss Secreta was beaten half a length by Life At The Top in the Sweet Solera Stakes at Newmarket.

That form looks superior to the Wadsworth victory of Peace The Peace, trained by Paul Cole, but a danger to both could come from Winter March, a convincing winner of his early start.

Princess Athena, a first runner at Phoenix Park for David Elsworth, ran her best race of the season so far to finish third in the King George V Stakes at Goodwood and she will be at home over this easy track. However, with heavy rain softening the ground last evening she could find the challenge of the Vincent O'Brien trained course and distance winner Welsh Charm a robust one.

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